

Soviets apologise for shooting

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze expressed apologies on Friday for the shooting of a U.S. soldier by Soviet troops in East Germany. Mr. Shevardnadze told a news conference in Washington that according to a report he had from Moscow on the incident, both Soviet and U.S. soldiers were at fault. "The Soviet side apologises for what happened and will take measures to ensure that such an incident does not recur in the future," he said.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, at a White House briefing on three days of negotiations on arms control and other superpower issues, called the shooting "unacceptable behaviour," and a Pentagon official described it as "sort of an ambush situation." The Americans denied any wrongdoing. Mr. Shevardnadze said the soldier was driving a car with other members of the U.S. military mission "very close to the facility, to the area, which is prohibited to members of foreign military missions." They were taking pictures of Soviet military aircraft and also were engaging in radio and electronic gathering near the Soviet military facility.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Amal burns Hizbollah magazine

BEIRUT (R) — Pro-Syrian Shi'ite Amal militiamen burned 8,000 copies of an Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) magazine on Friday. Hizbollah sources said. Witnesses said scores of Amal militiamen stopped a car carrying the magazines between the southern ports of Tyre and Sidon, took them out and set them on fire. Amal sources in Beirut said they had no information on the destruction of the copies of Al Ahd, Hizbollah's mouthpiece. The magazine contained no obvious attack on Amal, but analysts said the burning was linked to an escalating struggle between pro-Syrian Shi'ite nationalists and Iranian-backed Shi'ite fundamentalists. Hizbollah and Amal fought with machineguns and rockets in the southern market town of Nabatieh earlier this month in the first reported clash between the two militias, which compete for dominance of Lebanon's big Shi'ite community. Tension surfaced last month when Amal leader Nabih Berri, a close Syrian ally, criticised Hizbollah policies at a rally in Tyre. Syria has 25,000 troops in Lebanon, while Iran has several hundred Revolutionary Guards in the country.

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Regent sends good wishes to Chile

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable of good wishes on Thursday to Chilean President Augusto Pinochet congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day. In his cable the Crown Prince wished President Pinochet continuing good health and happiness and the Chilean people further progress and prosperity.

Lebanon raises petrol prices

BEIRUT (R) — Official petrol prices in Lebanon go up by 133 per cent on Saturday as part of a deal to allow the fuel-starved country to resume imports. Oil Minister Victor Kassir said on Friday. "We will start selling petrol at cost price," Mr. Kassir told Reuters. The official price of 300 pounds (\$1.10) for 20 litres (five gallons) of petrol would be raised to 700 pounds (\$2.60). He said a shipment of petrol which would last the country for 10 weeks was expected to arrive when acting Finance Minister Joseph Al Hashem authorised the purchase.

Ramadan meets Soviet official

NICOSIA (AP) — A Senior Soviet envoy, Konstantin Katusev, conferred in Baghdad Thursday with Iraq's Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan, on boosting economic links, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The visit by Mr. Katusev, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, came amid growing signs of strain between Baghdad and Moscow. The strains stem primarily from Soviet efforts to court Iran with a more even-handed policy in the Gulf conflict, a move Baghdad views with some suspicion. The Soviets currently are seeking to bolster economic links with Tehran. INA made no mention of political relations between Baghdad and Moscow in its report on Mr. Katusev's talks.

Garang in Nairobi for peace talks

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebel leader Colonel John Garang arrived in Nairobi on Friday for talks with southern Sudanese political parties on a settlement to the four-year-old war in the south. "We are in quest for peace. We have always wanted peace and that is why we are in Nairobi now, to try to work out modalities and find the feasibility of reaching a solution," Colonel Garang, chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), told reporters on arrival from Ethiopia.

Soviets find fault with both pilots in mid-air brush

OSLO (R) — A Moscow commission probing a collision between a Soviet fighter and a Norwegian observation plane over the strategically vital Barents Sea has concluded both pilots were equally to blame, Norway said on Friday. Oslo said it welcomed Moscow's apology for the behaviour of the fighter pilot in the statement, delivered to the Foreign Ministry on Friday. Oslo promised to look into Soviet charges in the statement that the Norwegian plane had manoeuvred dangerously.

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Superpowers agree to ban intermediate-range missiles

Reagan and Gorbachev to meet this year and sign INF treaty
NATO and allies welcome U.S.-Soviet agreement and hope for wider disarmament measures

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union have reached an "agreement in principle" to ban intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) — medium- and short-range nuclear missiles — and on a superpower summit this year, President Ronald Reagan announced Friday.

The treaty would be the first to ever ban an entire class of nuclear weapons. It would also be Mr. Reagan's first arms accord with the Soviet Union.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called the agreement "a common success for all mankind, for all civilisation."

Mr. Reagan said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and

Mr. Shevardnadze would meet in Moscow next month to set the date for the summit in the United States with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The ban would eliminate missiles with a range of 500 kilometres to 5,000 kilometres. The treaty would require the United States to dismantle 332 U.S. missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium that

are aimed at the Soviet Union. In return, the Soviets would destroy 462 missiles targeted on Western Europe and the 221 in Asia pointed at China and Japan.

The president said Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze settled major differences in a 9½ hour negotiating session Thursday.

"The road to an agreement... turned out to be more difficult than anyone had thought," Mr. Shevardnadze said at a news conference at the Soviet embassy minutes after Mr. Reagan's announcement.

Mr. Shevardnadze said that over the last few days "we have experienced a complex spectrum of emotions, from anxiety to a strong emotional uplift. The day before yesterday, I said to Secretary Shultz that it is time to bring in the harvest. And he agreed."

In the end, he said, "for the first time in the history of the existence of nuclear weapons... it has been possible to agree on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons. This is a beginning."

By year's end, he said, "both we and our American partners have confidence the treaty will be signed."

A joint U.S.-Soviet statement issued by the White House said that to sign a missile treaty and cover the full range of issues in U.S.-Soviet relations, "a summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will take place."

It added: "The summit will be held in the fall (autumn) of 1987 with exact dates to be determined"

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Iraqis pound Iranian targets amid reports of Tehran 'softening' stand

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq stepped up its pressure on Iran on Friday, attacking two oilfields and an oil terminal despite widespread reports that the Tehran leadership has softened its conditions for an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

A Baghdad military communiqué said Iraqi jets attacked Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf as well as the nearby Bahran Sar and Ardesheir offshore oilfields.

It was the second attack on Kharg since Wednesday, when the Iraqi government ended an informal six-day lull in fighting to mark the peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya on Friday made clear that Baghdad has every intention of pursuing the attacks on Iranian targets.

"We will continue hammering

on Iran's head and destroy its vital installations which feed its aggression," the paper said.

Baghdad, it added, would accept only comprehensive implementation of the July 20 Security Council resolution which calls on both sides to enter a ceasefire and which Mr. Perez de Cuellar was trying to get Iran to accept.

Iraq will accept the move only if Iran does likewise.

Al Jumhuriya said it was now the duty of the Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran for refusing to accept the resolution.

Diplomats at the United Nations in New York reported that the Iranian leaders told Mr. Perez de Cuellar they were willing to accept an "undeclared cessation of hostilities" after the United Nations set up an impartial inquiry into responsibility for the war.

Iraq and Iran differ over terms

of a ceasefire but agree that the United Nations has "the greatest potential" for ending the war, according to a newspaper account.

Friday of what it said was a confidential report by the U.N. secretary-general.

The Arabic-language Al Khaleej daily of the UAE published what it said was the text of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council on his peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad.

Diplomatic sources said the text published by the Sharjah newspaper appeared to indicate that differences between Iran and Iraq were reconcilable despite Iran's stated objections to Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire.

The paper, whose report carried a New York headline, said in an editorial that there was "cautious optimism in U.N. circles despite the Iranian stand contradicting the resolution."

Pentagon to speed up research on SDI

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department announced on Friday that it would speed up research in key areas of the "Star Wars" anti-missile programme while adhering to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty.

The announcement came only two hours after President Ronald Reagan said he would meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev this year to sign a treaty abolishing medium-range nuclear missiles.

Areas where "Star Wars" research will be accelerated include exploring the feasibility of space platforms from which small rockets might be fired at attacking missiles, satellites to watch for such missiles, and a complicated computer battle management system.

Moscow is strongly opposed to Mr. Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI), commonly called "Star Wars," to develop lasers and other weapons which could shoot down attacking nuclear missiles in flight.

The Senate on Thursday approved a proposal that would keep the Reagan administration from breaking the ABM treaty under an interpretation favoured by some conservatives in the administration (see page 8).

"We will remain within bounds of the treaty," Pentagon spokesman Bob Sims told Reuters in making the "Star Wars" announcement on Friday.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said a preliminary SDI system could be operating as early as the mid-1990s and that the Reagan administration is determined to speed up research on the programme.

The key areas where research on SDI will be accelerated, under a decision by Mr. Weinberger on a recommendation from the Pentagon's defence acquisition board, are:

— A space-based interception system deploying small rockets on orbiting battle platforms. The projectiles would be fired to collide with attacking nuclear missiles and warheads.

— A network of space satellites that could identify and track enemy missiles and tell the difference between nuclear and decoy warheads.

— A ground-based surveillance and tracking system, including development of a rocket that could be shot to the edge of space to track missiles approaching the United States.

— A computerised battle management system that would coordinate different anti-missile systems. This is perhaps the most difficult challenge faced by researchers in a defence where seconds count in a missile's early "liftoff" stage.

King visits aircraft plant after talks with leaders of Switzerland

His Majesty, in banquet speech, emphasises need for Mideast conference and praises Swiss support for it

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

BERNE — On the second day of an official visit to Switzerland on Friday, His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by his host President Pierre Aubert, toured an aircraft factory near Luzern.

The King, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Ouseim, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordan's Ambassador to Switzerland Adnan Talhouni, later attended an air show performed by the plant's military, civil and training jets.

The company was set up in 1939.

Later in the day, King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor were the guests of honour at a lunch hosted by the Swiss president and Mrs. Aubert aboard of a ferry.

Prior to the ferry trip, Queen Noor and Mrs. Aubert toured the city of Luzern's old quarter and visited its various historical sites. Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Swiss president and his wife Thursday night, King Hussein praised Swiss-Jordanian relations.

Since the signing of a 1976 bilateral agreement on trade, economic cooperation and investment, Jordanian-Swiss ties have "continuously expanded to strengthen the economic relations between both countries," King Hussein said.

Referring to Switzerland's capital and technical assistance programmes for the Kingdom's development plans, the King expressed hope that Berne would take the necessary steps to increase its imports of Jordanian potash and phosphates to help reduce the present gap in the

bilateral balance of trade.

"We believe there are numerous scopes for increasing bilateral cooperation to serve the interests of both peoples," and to support peace efforts in the direction for more stability in the region, he said.

In his speech, the King spoke in detail of the importance of convening a U.N.-sponsored conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict and of putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

The King reiterated Jordan's call for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict through the proposed peace conference on the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of all parties involved in the conflict.

He said that the proposed conference, to be attended by the

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Draft law on Al Wahdah Dam project referred to Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has referred to the Lower House of Parliament a draft law on an agreement signed between Jordan and Syria for the management of Yarmouk River waters through the building of Al Wahdah Dam in the Maqarin area.

Under the agreement signed earlier this month by the prime ministers of the two countries, Al Wahdah water would be utilised for irrigation purposes and for generating electric power as well as domestic use in both countries.

According to the agreement, an electric power plant would be built in the dam's course. Jordan will take 25 per cent of the generated electricity while Syria will have 75 per cent. Jordan

would be responsible for setting up the dam project and financing all its design work as well as construction and operation stages. Syria will provide all needed facilities for workers in the project.

Jordan will design and build the dam with a height of 100 metres to store the Yarmouk River water after filling up Syrian dams. The agreement reserves the right for Syria to use the water of all ground wells that may exist on its territories in the Yarmouk basin and its arteries except the waters before the dam and 250 metres under the water level.

Under the agreement, Syria is responsible for transferring the Hijazi railway line and constructing the needed infrastructure for

the project. Jordan will cover all of the involved cost.

Both countries would compensate land and other real estate owners who are affected by appropriations for the establishment of these projects. Syria will be committed to settle all claims by citizens concerning water rights and compensating people involved. Jordan will cover all expenses and compensations paid in Syria.

The agreement gave the right to both countries to benefit from the dam's lake in their respective territories for investment in the field of tourism and fish breeding in a way that does not obstruct the management of the dam's installations. Jordan will pay all maintenance cost for the dam.

Arabs clash with Israeli forces in massacre anniversary protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Friday in a clash with demonstrators marking the anniversary of the 1982 massacres in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps of Beirut.

Paramilitary troops opened fire at the Dheishah refugee camp south of Bethlehem when several dozen protesters pelted them with rocks and stoned passing cars on the main Jerusalem-Hebron highway.

A 7-year-old man was hit and taken to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Inside the camp, demonstrators carrying banners chanted anti-Israeli slogans in protests over the 1982 killing of several hundred Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps.

The rest of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip were reported calm on Friday.

Israeli forces arrested several dozen Palestinian activists and placed five suspected nationalist leaders in detention without trial this week to forestall expected demonstrations.

Palestinian students barricaded themselves inside a university building until nightfall on Thursday after Israeli troops surrounded the campus, firing gun shots and tear-gas canisters over a college wall.

More than 100 soldiers in riot gear and carrying automatic rifles encircled the Hebron Islamic University at the city's outskirts, shouting at the students through bullhorns to come out.

But the estimated 350 pupils remained locked inside the three-storey stone building, emerging every few minutes on the rooftop to survey the soldiers' positions. Palestinians blocked roads with stacks of stones, burned tires and

closed shops in the West Bank cities of Ramallah, Bireh and Nablus, as well as in the Gaza Strip. Five Palestinians were arrested in Nablus and the nearby Balata refugee camp.

In Hebron, students hung the red, green, black and yellow Palestinian flag from the wall surrounding the campus during a demonstration against the Lebanese massacres.

But soon after the protest started, soldiers climbed onto a campus wall, firing gun shots and tear-gas canisters into the paved yard, said university spokesman Mukhlis Hammouri.

Hammouri said the students responded by hurling rocks and cinderblocks at the soldiers.

Since Tuesday, the Israeli authorities jailing without trial 13 Palestinians in the West Bank, an army spokesman said.

Resistance says 20 SLA men killed or injured in clash; Israelis alert on Golan

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese resistance fighters said Friday that they killed or wounded 20 members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in an attack on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

In a statement issued here Friday, Islamic resistance said one of its men were killed and another wounded in a 30-minute clash with the SLA. The statement said the attack was to mark the fifth anniversary of the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila camps.

An Israeli military source quoted by Reuters confirmed that an SLA post on the edge of the "security zone" came under attack but said no SLA men were killed or injured.

The "security zone" — a 10-to-15-kilometre-wide strip of land in South Lebanon — was set by Israel when it withdrew the bulk of its occupation forces from Lebanon in 1985. It is patrolled

by Israeli troops and SLA militiamen.

On Tuesday, three Israeli soldiers were killed and four injured when resistance fighters clashed with an Israeli patrol inside the "security zone."

The Syrian-backed Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack.

But the Jerusalem Post newspaper quoted the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, on Friday as saying there were no signs of direct Syrian involvement.

In the wake of Tuesday's attack, Mr. Rabin said Thursday Israel was on the alert in the Golan Heights where its troops face Syrian forces.

Israeli officials suggested Syria may have been behind the ambush which occurred just 10 kilometres north of the Israeli-annexed Golan.

In addition to those killed, four Israelis were wounded in what was the most lethal guerrilla

attack on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon since 12 soldiers died in a suicide bombing just north of Israel's border in March 1985.

"We know that we must continue to be alert and prepared without illusions, and with our eyes open towards the Golan Heights and from the Golan Heights to Syria," Mr. Rabin said.

Israel occupied a large chunk of the Golan from Syria in the 1967 war and annexed the territory in 1981. About 20,000 Jewish settlers inhabit its rocky terrain.

The Golan is a strategic plateau that borders on the Sea of Galilee and a frequent site of tensions between Israeli and Syrian troops entrenched on either side of the frontier.

Some Israeli analysts and newspaper editors said Tuesday's attack raised the possibility of renewed confrontation between Israeli and Syrian-backed forces in Lebanon.

Dutch minehunters leave for Gulf

Belgium urges West European Gulf force

U.K. to help Kuwait counter Iranian threats

DEN HELDER, Netherlands (R) — Two Dutch minehunter vessels, equipped with only limited arms, left on a four-and-a-half month mission to the Gulf on Friday, their skilled crews harbouring mixed feelings of excitement and fear.

The two vessels are to meet up with three Belgian vessels and then join a fleet of some 80 U.S., Soviet, French, British and Italian warships striving to keep the vital Gulf shipping lanes free of mines amid the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

But unlike the bigger powers in the Gulf mission, neither the Dutch nor the Belgians, acknowledged experts at minehunting, can call on defensive support from their own warships.

They rely instead on British frigates to protect them against air raids, though details of such help have not been fully worked out, according to defence officials.

"You have to believe if your ship's attacked, somebody else will get hurt. But we've just got to get there and get on with the job," said Third Lieutenant Bram Sperling, injured two years ago when an Exocet missile hit his salvage tug in the Gulf.

"I don't think we will be attacked," Lt. Sperling told Reuters minutes before the Maassius and Hellevoetsluis weighed anchor at this base north of Amsterdam. "In any case, the Brits will protect us."

About 200 friends and relatives, some tearful, massed on the quayside as Defence Minister Wim Van Eekelen made the crew farewell.

"This is a difficult mission. It is an important mission and also... a safe mission," Van Eekelen told the crew of 92 navy volunteers, expanded for the operation to include extra medical staff, clerical and a baker.

The two 580-tonne ships, heading for what the Dutch call a purely defensive operation, first sail to Rotterdam to be thoroughly demagnetised on Saturday before continuing their four-week trip via Gibraltar and the Suez Canal.

They will meet up with the Belgian minehunters Bovesse and Bréydel and the supply ship Zinnia at an unidentified spot at sea, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The Belgian vessels will leave on Monday the naval base of Ostend, where the Dutch and Belgians jointly run what experts say is the world's best minehunting school.

Few travel details were given as authorities still sought port clearance for the flotilla in the Gulf area, where it would concentrate on the Gulf of Oman, defence spokesman Willem Van Vliet said.

Van Vliet said three marines were added to each Dutch ship to operate the machiegno and shoulder-mounted Stinger air defence missile-launcher supplementing the ships' sparse armory.

The narrow grey vessels, fitted with plastic hulls to avoid triggering mines by magnetic force, use state-of-the-art sonar equipment and mini-sub to locate and detonate mines.

The ships, which usually operate in the shallow North Sea coastal waters, will bring invaluable experience to the equally shallow Gulf, Dutch officials say.

But special satellite navigation and communication equipment had to be installed for the unusual distances involved in the operation.

Meanwhile Belgian Defence Minister François-Xavier de Donnea said in remarks published on Friday he hoped minehunting operations in the Gulf would lead to greater military cooperation within the Western European Union (WEU).

He told the Kuwait daily Al Qabas he was pleased that Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain had agreed to operate jointly in the Gulf.

"I consider this a first step possibly toward more serious operations under the WEU banner in the future and in other circumstances," he said.

Mr. De Donnea said he would have preferred that other WEU states — West Germany, Luxembourg, Italy and France — had formed a joint Gulf force to keep shipping lanes secure and mine-free.

"In any case it is a big gain that serious talks on this matter have taken place within the WEU and were crowned with intensive cooperation between three member countries," he said.

Goria in Belgium

Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria arrived in Belgium on Thursday for talks focussing on decisions by both countries to send minesweepers to the Gulf to help other Western allies safeguard shipping in the region.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens announced on Tuesday that his country would send two minesweepers and one support vessel, but stressed they would work closely with U.S., French, British, Italian and Dutch forces.

Italian vessels have already set sail for the area.

A government spokesman said Mr. Goria, accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, was holding talks with Mr. Martens and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans. He was then due to meet European Community Commission President Jacques Delors.

He was to fly on to Dublin later on Thursday for a brief stop-over before going to London where he was to meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In a separate development a senior British Foreign Office official said in an interview published Thursday that Britain will help preserve Kuwait's integrity and counter Iranian threats against the Gulf Arab state.

The English-language daily Arab Times quoted David Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign Office, as reiterating that Britain supports imposing sanctions on Iran if it rejects a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 7-year-old Gulf war.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, told Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad in London earlier this week that he should have no doubts about Britain's support in case of Iranian threats, said Mr. Mellor, who attended the talks.

"Sir Geoffrey made it clear to Sheikh Sabah that we wish to do all we can to ensure Kuwait's integrity is preserved and we will put all our thoughts to that end," he told the newspaper.

"Let us be in any doubt of the strength of the ties between our two countries," Mr. Mellor added.

The British official said: "We are very aware of the dangers of the war spreading."

But when asked what action Britain would take if Iran renewed attacks against Kuwait, he said: "I do not want to deal with hypothetical situations."

During a dramatic escalation of Gulf war hostilities last month, Kuwait accused Iran of firing at long-range Chinese-made missile into southern Kuwait.

Iran claims Kuwait, only 60 miles (93 kilometres) from the war zone, actively supports Iraq in the war.

Iran also has been attacking vessels carrying Kuwaiti oil in the Gulf, prompting the Arab state to seek U.S. naval protection.

Britain recently agreed to fly the Union Jack on a Kuwaiti oil tanker to entitle it to protection by British warships. The Royal Navy's Armilla Patrol has escorted scores of commercial vessels in the Gulf in recent years.

"The Armilla Patrol offers no guarantees, but we believe that in the past seven years they have done a very sound, professional job in carrying out their duties," Mr. Mellor said.

Ten Kuwaiti tankers have been registered in the United States and an 11th is expected to fly the American flag soon as part of U.S. support for Kuwait, which has also chartered three Soviet tankers.

Mr. Mellor said if Iran rejects the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution, "the Security Council must enforce (Resolution) 598."

Asked if that meant the world body should impose an arms embargo on Tehran, Mr. Mellor said: "We are not in a position to say that."

Shamir: South African ties reduced to keep up with West

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Friday that Israel had decided to reduce ties with South Africa further to keep up with other Western countries.

"It is hard for Israel to be exceptional from all Western nations. We did what we saw had to be done, no more or less," Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud Bloc, told state radio.

Israel's policy-making inner cabinet agreed this week on 10 sanctions limiting cultural, economic, scientific and sporting links

along with official visits. Israel agreed last March not to enter into new military deals with Pretoria.

Shamir said the measures took into account the future of South Africa's 110,000 Jews, who have a unique arrangement enabling them to invest in Israel.

In Pretoria, the Foreign Ministry has said it will comment after studying the list but a government source said a first reading showed the steps — said by Israel to be modelled on European Community sanctions — did not look so bad.

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Austria threatens pullout of envoy from Israel

VIENNA (R) — Foreign Minister Alois Mock, accusing President Kurt Waldheim's critics of reviving demons of the past, threatened to withdraw Austria's ambassador to Israel.

Mr. Mock spoke two days after the general secretary of the Israeli Labour Party told Chancellor Franz Vranitzky that Israel would not return its own top envoy as long as Dr. Waldheim remains president.

Israeli Ambassador Michael Elizar retired last October and has not been replaced due to allegations by the World Jewish Congress that Waldheim was involved in war crimes while in the German army during World War II. Dr. Waldheim denies the charges.

Israel is now represented in Vienna by a charge d'affaires. "There has been a decision to refrain from sending an ambassador under the current situation," an Israeli diplomat said.

Mr. Mock told a news conference that diplomatic relations should be carried out on the principle of reciprocity.

In response to a question, the foreign minister said Ambassador Otto Pleinert could be withdrawn from Tel Aviv if Israel had not returned its ambassador within half a year.

"International relations have functioned perfectly well at the charge d'affaires level," Mr. Mock said.

Mr. Mock, political leader of the Conservative People's Party which supported Dr. Waldheim's election in June 1986, added:

"The head of state is elected with an overwhelming majority and has a right to a corresponding respect at home and abroad."

"Whoever believes one can achieve political goals through hate and intransigent agitation only calls up once again the demons of Austria's past."

Leaders of Austria's small Jewish community, decimated by the Nazi takeover of the country in 1938, have claimed a rise in anti-Semitic activity since the election of Dr. Waldheim.

A Waldheim spokesman said later that Romania and Pakistan had invited the Austrian president to visit them.

Last April, the United States banned him from entering the country as a private citizen because of alleged suspicion over his service in the German army.

Since his election in June 1986, Dr. Waldheim has travelled to the Vatican to meet Pope John Paul and to Jordan, where he was accorded full state honours by His Majesty King Hussein.

Dr. Waldheim or his office have previously spoken of invitations to visit countries including Libya, Uganda, Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

Israel urged the Austrian government on Friday not to recall its envoy from Tel Aviv.

An Nahar journalist shot in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A Christian journalist was shot and wounded in Syrian-policed mainly Muslim west Beirut on Friday as Lebanon's 25 publications all went on strike to protest an attempt earlier this week on the life of another newspaperman.

A police spokesman said three men riding in a red German BMW fired at Elie Maalouf, who works at Beirut leading newspaper An Nahar and heads the educational department of the pro-Damascus Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP).

Mr. Maalouf was driving his own orange BMW through the residential neighbourhood of Tal-el-Khayat at 10.15 a.m. (0715 GMT) when the attackers fired at him with silencer-equipped pistols.

They sped away, leaving Mr. Maalouf, 36, bleeding from three bullet wounds — one in the abdomen, a second in the shoulder and a third in the face.

A source at An Nahar, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attack on Mr. Maalouf was part of a bloody power struggle within the SSNP and not linked to the newspaper.

The SSNP has been divided for several into two wings, one loyal to Syria and another supported by Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing regulations, said Mr. Maalouf was taken to the American University Hospital. A spokesman at the hospital said later that he had undergone surgery and was in a stable condition.

Ironically, Mr. Maalouf was shot on the day Lebanon's 13 daily newspapers and 12 weekly magazines began a three-day strike to dramatise an attempt on Monday to kill Hassan Sabra, 38, the publisher and editor of the weekly magazine Ash Shiraa.

On Friday, Mr. Sabra was still recovering at the American University Hospital from holter wounds he suffered when an attacker, riding pillion on a motorcycle, fired at him.

A hospital spokesman, who refused to be named, said Mr. Sabra's condition was "satisfactory" and he could be discharged next week.

The Unions of Lebanese publishers and Editors had called for the strike to protest what they described in statements "the assault of freedom."

A bomb exploded Tuesday at the residence of Sidon Dr. Nazih Bazzi, a Sunni Muslim parliament member and prominent physician, wounding five patients. Dr. Bazzi escaped unhurt.

Later that day, a bomb ripped through the headquarters of the Greek Catholic archbishop in Zahle, east Lebanon, during a visit by Falangist militia leader Elie Hobeika.

One of Mr. Hobeika's bodyguard was killed and 30 people, including the Syrian-backed militia chieftain and the archbishop, Msgr. Andre Haddad, were wounded. Police said they believe Mr. Hobeika was the target of the attack.

habre rejects Qadhafi's peace overture

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad, flatly rejecting peace overtures from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, has demanded Libya's withdrawal from a disputed border area occupied by Tripoli since 1973.

The war between Chad and Libya can only end when Libya evacuates occupied Chadian territory and gives up once and for all its annexationist aims on our country," state-run N'Djamena Radio said on Thursday.

Col. Qadhafi said on Wednesday the conflict between the two countries was over while indicating his intention to retain control of the Saharan Desert border strip of Aouzou.

The two neighbours fought several battles last month over the sparsely-inhabited area.

In a commentary, the Chadian radio said Libya's stand had not changed "one iota" despite Col. Qadhafi's latest remarks, which it dismissed as "arrogant."

"If the war was over, what were Libyan troops doing in northern Chad? Why did Libyan aircraft regularly fly into our airspace?" the radio asked.

Chad has accused Libya of violating its airspace since the two countries agreed a week ago to a ceasefire sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The radio said Libyan bombers flew over three government outposts in north western Chad — Bardai, Yebbi-Bou and Wour — on Thursday.

It accused Col. Qadhafi of still seeking to annex Chad and warned that Chad was committed to defend its territorial integrity "by all means."

Both countries claim the Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-square-kilometre desert which diplomats say has more strategic and symbolic value than mineral wealth it is widely believed to contain.

Col. Qadhafi, claiming Libya's costly war in Chad is over for ever, pledged once again to interfere in Chad's affairs if N'Djamena accepted his claim to the disputed Aouzou Strip.

regulating arms exports — as required by law — and Singapore had not at that time made any request for Howitzers for its own use.

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Israeli order confines Arab editor to Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli military authorities have issued an order confining the editor of a Palestinian newspaper to the Jerusalem area for six months, Israeli and Palestinian sources said on Friday.

The sources said it was presumed the order against Salah Zuhair, editor of the daily Al Shaah (the people), centred on suspected security offences.

Mr. Zuhair, 30, will be able to continue his newspaper work under the order but must remain in his home from 8 p.m. until dawn, report to police daily and remain in the Jerusalem area, the sources said.

Mr. Zuhair became editor last December when his predecessor, Akram Haniyeh, became the first editor of an East Jerusalem daily to be expelled from Israeli-occupied areas in 14 years.

Mr. Haniyeh, accused of being a leading local representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), went to Algeria.

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Shamir: South African ties reduced to keep up with West

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Friday that Israel had decided to reduce ties with South Africa further to keep up with other Western countries.

"It is hard for Israel to be exceptional from all Western nations. We did what we saw had to be done, no more or less," Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud Bloc, told state radio.

Israel's policy-making inner cabinet agreed this week on 10 sanctions limiting cultural, economic, scientific and sporting links

along with official visits. Israel agreed last March not to enter into new military deals with Pretoria.

Shamir said the measures took into account the future of South Africa's 110,000 Jews, who have a unique arrangement enabling them to invest in Israel.

In Pretoria, the Foreign Ministry has said it will comment after studying the list but a government source said a first reading showed the steps — said by Israel to be modelled on European Community sanctions — did not look so bad.

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along

Home news

Soviet official ends visit, reaffirms Moscow stands

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Soviet foreign ministry official has left Amman for Damascus after an official visit to Jordan during which he had talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly, bilateral relations, and current regional and international issues.

Before his Thursday departure, Oleg Peryshkin, member of the Soviet foreign ministry's higher committee and president of the Diplomatic Studies Academy, in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, reiterated his country's interest in consulting with Arab states in order to hear their views on the current international and regional issues.

Dr. Peryshkin added that he met with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and a number of Jordanian officials, who welcomed and praised Soviet arms control initiatives.

The Soviet official added that he was briefed by Mr. Masri on Jordan's intention to vote at the U.N. for Soviet proposals aimed at alleviating international tensions and creating a setting conducive to achieving security and stability for the world.

Dr. Peryshkin pointed out that his talks currently being held by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz, which are aimed at reaching a treaty on reducing the number of nuclear missiles, will open vast horizons for international cooperation if they are successful.

On the tense situation in the Arab Gulf region, Dr. Peryshkin said that the U.N. and its secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, are playing a major role in efforts towards ending the Gulf war. He noted that the Soviet Union strongly supported U.N. Resolution 598, which paved the way for Mr. De Cuellar's visits to Tehran and Baghdad. Although the U.N. secretary-general's visit to these capitals did not achieve complete success due to Iranian intransigence, the U.N. Security Council should continue to take practical steps towards ending the war, the Soviet official added.

Dr. Peryshkin said that the Soviets are continuing their support of Iraq's steadfastness at the economic and political levels, and will continue to make available defence supplies to enable Iraq to protect its territory.

At the same time, Dr. Peryshkin added, the Soviets are doing their best to persuade Iran to take a positive step and accept the resolutions of international community. He stressed that the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf would help to ease tensions, because any confrontation at this point might explode the already volatile situation in the region.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem, the Soviet official said that his country was calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East, and that they would seek, during the 2nd session of the U.N. General Assembly, to form a preparatory committee for this conference.

Khayyat ends Baghdad talks, signs cooperation agreement

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has wound up a visit to Iraq by signing an agreement with his Iraqi counterpart, Abdullah Fadel, to establish cooperation in the religious sphere.

The agreement provides for joint work in preserving Islamic heritage, exchanging expertise and experience among Islamic scholars unifying Iraqi and Iranian regulations concerning the management of awqaf endowments (estates owned by religious authorities), and exchanging publications and research in an effort to propagate Islamic teaching through the information media.

The agreement also provides for coordination between Iraq and Jordan in organising Islamic seminars and conferences.

The signing of the agreement came at the conclusion of talks between the two ministers held in Baghdad over the past four days. During the visit, Sheikh Khayyat made a statement calling for the convening of a conference of Muslim ulama (leaders in religious affairs) under the auspices of Al Azhar University of Cairo, to approve measures and resolutions to address Iran's continued aggression against Iraq, and to show support for the Iraqi people in the face of the continued aggression.

Sheikh Khayyat, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Jordan and Iraq are unified in their stand against the Iranian aggression. "During my visit here, I have felt the Iraqi government and people's deep appreciation of Jordan's stand in support of Iraq in its war with Iran," Sheikh Khayyat said.

Also during the visit, the minister was taken on tours of the religious sites of Al Najaf, Al Kufa, and Karbala, where he met with Islamic leaders to exchange views on religious affairs. In addition, Sheikh Khayyat was received by Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council.

Ministry continues efforts to help job seekers find employment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 50 per cent of Jordanian job seekers have been offered employment in different businesses and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development will continue efforts to find jobs for all unemployed people, according to Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan.

Speaking at a Thursday meeting with directors of employment offices in the Kingdom, Mr. Haj Hassan said that the ministry is striving diligently to find work for community college and school graduates, who form nearly 75 per cent of unemployed people in the country.

In July, the minister told the third Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman that nearly eight per cent of the Jordanian work force has registered as unemployed, and the number is expected to reach 9.1 per cent by 1990. This means that nearly 40,000 Jordanians are jobless.

In his meeting Thursday, the minister said that recent measures implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development aim at controlling the labour market and providing additional opportunities for job seekers. He said that the ministry has opened a new office at

Shmeisani in Amman for employment assistance.

In addition, he urged the directors of employment and labour offices in the country to implement the ministry's regulations concerning the employment of non-Jordanian workers.

On Tuesday, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to discuss measures to deal with the unemployment problem in the Kingdom. Among the measures reviewed were vocational training programmes for school graduates, preparing them to assume jobs occupied by non-Jordanians.

Team to research employment

KARAK (Petra) — A work team has been set up to gather information from all government services and departments in Jordan prior to working out a national plan for administrative training for government employees at all levels, according to a statement issued Friday.

Abdullah Ulayyan, director of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), who made the statement, said that the team is comprised of representatives from the Civil Service Commission, the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences, and the IPA.

He said that the team has been set up in implementation of a decision by the higher committee charged with addressing the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom.

The team will help implement a programme for providing training to a large number of college and university graduates prior to offering them jobs in different institutions, Mr. Ulayyan said.

He said that the team will embark on its work in the coming two weeks, and that the process of gathering information will probably take two months to complete.

USAID grants \$2m for five-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will grant Jordan \$2 million to help cover the cost of technical services involved in the country's 1986-1990 five-year development plan, according to an agreement signed here on Thursday.

The new grant will be in addition to a grant of \$1 million donated to Jordan by USAID for this purpose.

The funds will cover the cost of a programme of administrative training for public and private sector managers, which aims at increasing production efficiency and the creation of new jobs.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and USAID Director in Jordan Lewis Reade.

Writers group bylaws endorsed by minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib has endorsed a set of bylaws for the newly-formed Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) which had been approved by the JWF board and constituent assembly.

The bylaws provide for the establishment of five JWF branches around the country to help fulfil the federation's objectives.

Higher education chief meets with ambassadors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad has held separate meetings in his office with the Egyptian and Iraqi ambassadors to Jordan. During the meetings, which took place on Thursday, centred on the acceptance of Jordanian students to Iraqi and Egyptian universities.

Dr. Assad has just returned from visits to universities in Iraq, where he discussed the question of admitting Jordanian students. He said that the Iraqi government has promised this year to accept the largest possible number of Jordanian students at Iraqi universities, and will offer 250 of these students full scholarships.

Historic mansion houses display of local artwork

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

UMM AL KUNDUMM — After years of renovation works, Mamdouh Bisharat's century-old farmhouse opened its doors on Friday with a high-quality display of traditional handicrafts and artefacts and an exhibit of the owner's personal art collection.

Almost 20 years of restoration on the two-storey dwelling, situated high on a hillside overlooking wheat fields, have ended, qualifying the home as a superb monument to Jordan's history.

The stone house's original entry, the madafah reception hall comprising a large open annex and an adjacent reception chamber, were filled with valuable displays, ranging from handicrafts produced by people from the city of Mukhaibeh, to paintings, engravings, Islamic scripts, and wall hangings from as far back as the 17th century.

Officials exchange posts

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of Saturday, Mansour Ibn Tarif, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, and Abdullah Al Jazz, director-general of the Jordanian-Hijazi Railway Corporation, will exchange posts, in accordance with a Cabinet decision taken recently. No reasons were given for this exchange of seats among the two government institutions.

Police chiefs depart after touring valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of Arab police chiefs and their accompanying delegations left Amman for their respective countries after attending the 12th Conference for Arab Police Chiefs.

On Friday the delegations, representing 19 different Arab countries, toured the Jordan Valley, and the Dead Sea, and visited the site of the 12th Mechanised Division in the north of Jordan.

The two-day conference was opened Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Jordan is the current chair of the conference, which is sponsored by the Arab League's Council of Arab Interior Ministers. The meeting's official discussions ended here Wednesday evening.

On Thursday, the conference visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Greater Amman Council (GAC).

PSD Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, also president of the conference, told his guests that Jordan has succeeded in facing all difficult challenges and dangers facing it through the "persistence and diligence of the people."

Colonel Ibrahim Harb, director of the PSD Public Relations Department, briefed the Arab police guests on the various organisational functions of PSD departments, as well as on new plans to upgrade and train the police personnel in Jordan.

The PSD's plans to set up a computerised command and control system modernising the department's communications and information transfer operations were also explained to the police chiefs by Col. Harb.

Later on Thursday, the delegations visited the PSD's Al Muhajereen Centre, the pilot project for implementing the concept of comprehensive security, where police stations assume partial responsibility for social services, in addition to security.

Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh, also chairman of the Greater Amman Council (GAC), welcomed the guests during their visit to the municipality's general headquarters. Mr. Rawabdeh briefed them on the various organisational and administrative problems which the capital faces as a result of rapid population growth and the forced migration of West Bank Arabs into Jordan due to the Israeli occupation of the territory.

First Arab Strategic Conference seen as encouraging step towards creating pan-Arab think-tank

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The First Arab Strategic Conference, which concluded its sessions at the University of Jordan on Thursday, was viewed by organisers, participants, and observers as "an encouraging start towards the formation of a pan-Arab group of strategic thinkers."

The conference, which was organised jointly by the University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies and the Egyptian Al Ahram Centre for Strategic and Political Studies, was seen as a serious attempt "to achieve a more effective involvement by Arab thinkers, intellectuals, and scholars in the formulation of a comprehensive pan-Arab strategy to find a nucleus for an Arab strategic think-tank."

The discussions and debates throughout the conference were encouraging, according to intellectuals who followed the sessions. But, as a number of Jordanian thinkers and other observers told the Jordan Times, the sessions have also unveiled the obstacles facing such a serious and ambitious attempt by the organisers.

Perhaps the first and most striking obstacle, "which actually reflected the situation in the Arab World," was that the debates reflected "the reserved and cautious" attitude of the intellectuals in discussing the urgent problems. This cautious attitude "which characterised some comments made by participants... reflected the constraints imposed on the intellectuals as a result of the absence of or weakness of the democratic institutions in most, if not all, the Arab countries," observers said.

Another related feature which was noted by some observers and even participants was that "the intellectual Arab circles were also, unfortunately, influenced by the undemocratic atmosphere and attitudes which prevail in the Arab World."

What were described as "undemocratic comments or approaches," on the part of few participants, actually provoked strong reactions at two different stages of the discussions. In a

reply to an analysis which argued the main cause of deep divisions in the Arab World was... the presence of diverse ideological parties and groups, Dr. Abdullah Al Nafisi, from Kuwait, exploded, saying, "this observation is expected from an interior minister or a police chief but is shocking and unacceptable coming from an intellectual or scholar."

A similar comment was made by the chairman of Al Ahram Centre, Al Saed Yassin, during the discussion of the centre's annual strategic report for 1986. Some participants strongly criticised the report's specific assessments, and analyses of a number of Arab governments. The argument of these participants was that such report should not have made conclusions about the intentions of Arab governments "as if the researchers were reading the minds of the Arab leaders."

Two or three participants even urged the conference to reject the report's conclusions, particularly those concerning the centre's assessment of Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

This is our own analysis and inductions. The centre is an independent institution, and we refuse government, or any other kind, of censorship," Mr. Yassin replied. "Furthermore, we are not imposing our view on this conference, nor are we trying to impose our opinion upon anyone... so please, at least in a forum like this one, you cannot confiscate our ideas, just as we do not have the right to confiscate any of the other ideas expressed in this conference," he continued.

A third obstacle, cited by observers and participants, was that the division of the Arab World into different and independent nations states has clearly manifested itself in the

approaches of the Arab intellectuals. In other words, "a formulation of an Arab strategic school of thought requires that states and especially intellectuals formulate their analyses from a wider Arab perspective, and not the narrow view imposed by individual nation-states interests."

These observers noted that, despite the prevalence of a strong pan-Arab nationalist perspective, some views could not transcend "the narrow interest of individual Arab states." Some participants even implied during the sessions that certain views tried to accommodate the official positions of their governments at "the expense of academic analysis and pan-Arab strategic thinking."

These obstacles or, as described by some observers, "negative features," did prevent the debates from being characterised by considerable openness and frankness. In fact, some of the scholars, politicians, and military personnel who took part in the conference, were very candid, daring, independent, and even very critical, in airing their views and analyses.

The openness and frankness, as well as depth of some of the analyses presented in the conference, led the political commentator of the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, in one of the articles last week, to express hope that all of the proceedings would be broadcast on television "to broaden participation in such an important debate."

Furthermore, the recommendations which were suggested by a number of participants in the concluding session clearly indicated that majority at least considered the conference a successful beginning. Two of the major recommendations expected to be implemented were that the participants keep in touch with each other to continue the discussions on individual and bilateral basis until the next meeting in Cairo in 1988, and that they organise seminars on specific themes which the debate showed to be relevant to the formulation of an Arab strategy.

In their concluding remarks, participants were enthusiastic about the continuation of these meetings.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dudin named acting foreign minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued in Amman appointing Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin as acting foreign minister during Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri's absence with the King in Switzerland.

Haj Hassan requests embassies' help

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan has sent a memorandum to Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on the subject of enlisting help from Jordanian embassies abroad to implement the resolutions and recommendations made by the third Jordanian Expatriates Conference last July. The move was made upon the instructions of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who urged all ministries to cooperate in the implementation of these resolutions.

Egyptian official here to discuss company

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Medhat Abdul Aziz arrived here on Friday for a four-day official visit during which he will participate in talks on the Jordanian-Egyptian Company for Investment and Development. Mr. Abdul Aziz will consult with members of the Jordanian side of the company on arrangements for setting up the company, whose establishment was announced last month.

Policemen arrest murderer in Zarqa

AMMAN (J.T.) — Policemen in Zarqa have arrested a man who, on Tuesday, shot dead a 35-year-old woman and seriously injured her 44-year-old husband, her 2-year-old child and another relative, during a gunfight which took place on Yajouz Road near Amman. Preliminary police investigations have revealed that the crime was the result of a dispute over a piece of land. The murderer and the victims are apparently from the same family. The Amman prosecutor general and Public Security Department are still investigating the incident.

University students begin school year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 28,000 students will begin on Saturday their studies at the four Jordanian universities. The universities accepted 6,000 new students this year.

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Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAJ-JO

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Deadline nears

SEPTEMBER 20 is the deadline given to Iran by the Arab foreign ministers to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. It is also the date for another meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to decide on whether they should sever diplomatic relations with Iran in case it continued its war against Iraq. So far there has been no indication that the Iranians want to implement the resolution or end the war with its Arab neighbour, nor there is any sign that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mission has been successful. On the contrary we have been hearing fresh statements by Iranian leaders that they will pursue the conflict and that they would be shelling Iraqi economic targets. The Arab foreign ministers are therefore confronting a crucial test on Sunday when they meet to discuss this difficult situation. The coming meeting to be held in Tunis is most crucial for the Arabs who should now contemplate imposing sanctions on Iran which continues to disregard the Arab Nation's call for peace and scoff at Security Council resolutions to achieve that end. The Arab foreign ministers, confronted with this task, should do all they can to make their meeting a success, and prove that their earlier warning to Iran was serious. A concerted action in Tunis will encourage the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate measures in the face of Iran's obduracy and ill-behaviour.

Al Dustour: Jordan protests Israeli measures

JORDAN has embarked on moves at the United Nations aimed at stemming Israel's continued repression against the Arab population under its rule and its expropriation of Arab land. Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations Abdullah Salah has submitted a protest to the U.N. secretary general outlining Israel's illegal practices and its arbitrary measures in the occupied territories in violation of the Geneva Conventions and U.N. resolutions and principles. In his protest, Mr. Salah warned against the dangers inherent in Israel's continued aggression on Arab lands and the dangers posed by Israel's practices to peace in the region. Needless to say that the weak Arab position and the disarray in Arab ranks have been encouraging Israel to escalate its recent oppressive measures in the occupied territory. This weakness and this disarray have also been encouraging Iran to pursue its war on the Arab Nation's eastern flank and to cause tension in the Gulf region. What unites our common enemies and feeds off the common dangers is unity among our Arab ranks and cohesion and cooperation within the Arab community. What paves the way for such coordination of efforts is an Arab summit meeting where the Arab leaders can chart the most appropriate plan to deal with the situation. Arab solidarity is now needed if our efforts are to succeed.

Sawt Al Shaab: King reiterates Jordan's position

KING Hussein now on a visit to Switzerland has reiterated Jordan's firm stand vis a vis the Middle East question and outlined the proper means for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. In an interview with Swiss Television King Hussein said that Jordan adheres to its demand for peace based on the U.N. Security Council resolutions and calls on all peace loving nations to help find a just and lasting settlement for the Palestine problem. Ending the war in the Middle East, he said, means putting an end to the long sufferings of the region's peoples over the past tens of years. Jordan, as the King said, can reach peace based on the equation of swapping land for peace. The world has been watching King Hussein's endeavours and monitoring Jordan's search for peace, and at the same time world nations have realised that it is Israel which continues to place obstacles in the path of peace. In his interview with Swiss Television, King Hussein wanted to put the facts before the world and to enlist the help of nations in re-establishing security and stability in our region.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israel threatens Lebanon

OVER the past two days, Israel has been issuing threats against the Arab resistance which attacked and wounded seven Israeli troops in occupied Lebanese territory. The threats mean that the Israeli leadership has not yet learnt from past lessons and mistakes and does not wish to learn that aggression on the Arabs has a price. Israel's occupation of Lebanon's southern regions has been causing sufferings for the local population and tragedies to the country as a whole, and the situation there is being aggravated as a result of Israeli troops' atrocities. Therefore, any fresh acts of aggression are bound to trigger counter measures by the Lebanese resistance forces and an escalation of tension in the region. The attack on the Israeli soldiers was in retaliation in Israel's air raids on the refugee camp of Ain Al Hilwe several days earlier in which innocent people fell victim to Israel's barbarism. The attack on the Israeli soldiers came in the course of a battle waged by the resistance forces against the occupiers of Arab land and not Israeli civilians. Israel has to understand that terrorism and continued occupation of Arab land cannot serve as a bed of roses and can never yield peace. It should also realise that the continued presence of Israeli troops in Lebanon is bound to bring about more tragedies for the Israeli people who eventually pay the price of war.

Al Dustour: Time to punish the aggressor

NOW that the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has ended his mission in the Gulf region and returned home, the question of peace in the Gulf rests with the Security Council. It is up to this council to take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of its Resolution 598 which calls for a ceasefire and an end to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The council which will consider De Cuellar's report about his difficult mission in the Gulf will be discussing the replies of Iraq and Iran to the call of peace and the council's bid to bring an end to the seven year old conflict in implementation of the council resolution. The coming few days will witness fresh meetings at the United Nations and a flurry of diplomatic activity at the Security Council which will no doubt reveal the real positions of each of the major powers as to the war and the question of implementing the resolution. We will be watching carefully to see if the council members will be willing and serious in their efforts to impose sanctions on the party that refuses the peace bids and opposes measures to bring the war to an end. We hope that the council will order sanctions to be imposed on the party that continues the war depriving it of the means and the weapons to pursue an aggressive course.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

598: The need for new approaches

WHILE it is unfortunate that Iran rejected the peace call contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987, we should consider the motives behind the rejection. Why has Iran refused all overtures towards peace? From the first few weeks after the start of the conflict, seven years ago, Iran has consistently, and to some illogically, refused to consider seriously any and all attempts at ending the bloody and costly war. But then, when dealing with the affairs of the Middle East, one should abandon the normal rules of logic and thus contemplate and analyse on different levels of reality. Why does Iran, led by a man of religion, a Mullah, an Ayatollah, a devout Muslim, continue this seemingly senseless crusade against a neighbour and a sister Muslim state?

In answering this question some Arab analysts insist that Iran's historical and strategic ambitions remain the same, though the appearance and the name of Iran's rulers change. If this assumption is true, and it would seem to be, then this does throw some light on the situation thus helping explain, in part at least, the vehemence behind Iran's attack. It does not really make much sense to continue to insist that Iraq, the party that supposedly initiated the conflict, be blamed. Even were it to be censured, would this pay for the hundreds of thousands of lives lost? Cities destroyed? Ancient hatreds and passions rekindled?

Iran claims that Iraq struck the first blow, while Iraq insists that the first blow was struck several times by Iran through acts of sabotage, infiltration, attempted assassinations as well as vehement verbal abuse. The tragedy lies in the fact that both sides are paying

a very heavy price; as is the entire region as well. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, was told by the Iranian leaders at the end of his futile mission that Iran would "never yield to pressure..." Iran wants Iraq to be identified as the aggressor. Little has changed since the start of the war, and little seems likely to change in the foreseeable future; because little has changed in the attitude or mentality of the Iranian leaders. And thus, the Gulf region which should have been a model of prosperity, development and cooperation among its neighbours, regressed into a jungle of rifle muzzles; artillery turrets; warship masts; minesweepers; screaming missiles and attacking planes.

The Ayatollah recognises no borders and in his messianic view of the world, his message is all encompassing, universal. At least while he is alive, the revolution will remain sustained by his will of iron and his vision of the future. With his white beard, black turban and piercing eyes, he does indeed look as if he operates outside the parameters of time as mortals know it. So what if life is lost, property damaged, cities destroyed? In his mind, perhaps still operating from a medieval perspective, nothing should stand in the way of the call. Some may call it a revolution, but for the Imam, it is a call to all humanity to behave in accordance with his perception of the world to come. It is not Iran against Iraq alone, or even the entire Arab World; but Iran against the world. The man's vision is global not regional, and his methods are both strategic and tactical. Though friends with none, suspected by all, he has succeeded in forcing his message upon the conscience of humanity. East and West, Communist and capitalist, believer and infidel; even those he

considers and declares future enemies, like Israel, he uses in his single minded mission. Before the fury of the revolution, all other considerations must be cast aside.

Led by such a force, such an ideology, Iran, though militarily thwarted, has already registered impressive successes, internationally. As a strategic prize, the superpowers wish to be on good, or at least operative terms with her and in the wake of this, the great powers also follow. For her own considerations, and because of the Soviet Union and India, China too must attempt to be on operative terms with it as well. Pakistan and India, because of their mutual suspicions of each other must keep their lines of communication open with Tehran, while Israel has its own calculations. Aware of all these factors as well as others, Iran has cleverly manipulated the situation to her advantage. So what if there is no space left in the Gulf for her mines, crowded as it is with the navies of so many powers. Iran has proven that friendless, alone, and sliding back into the Middle Ages, it is a power to be reckoned with.

New ways, new approaches need to be sought in our attempts at reaching the Imam to put a halt to the war. Otherwise, resolution 598 will simply be added to those that preceded it, in the same way that we have accumulated resolutions for the Lebanese and Palestine conflicts. For Lebanon we have resolutions 452 of 1978 and 509 of 1982 plus many others; for Palestine we have 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973 in addition to many others. It's about time we stop using numerology to divine our future. That too is medieval and not enough. All these conflicts have become stabilised against us.

Letter from Khartoum

By Richard Walker

THE haze had almost cleared on my last day in Khartoum. A week earlier, one of the seasonal blasts of hot dust and litter — a *haboob* — had filled the town; for days afterwards Khartoum had washed and swept until clothes and hair and beds were almost clean again. Now we were left with this gentle haze, the result of fine dust suspended in the air, softening very slightly the light of the Sudanese sun.

For the first time in a week the streets were fully visible from my balcony. The sight they present is one that tires the eye. Twenty summers of dust storms have thrown a blanket of mud over the city, clogging the gutters and stormdrains. And despite the heavy traffic of cars, cars and trucks, and the high-standing four-wheel drive saloons with aid agency logos that now fill Khartoum, the heaps of mud and rubble go on accumulating. The government, people tell you, is spending its money on the civil war. It's not surprising that nobody comes to clear the roads. Some of the side streets are already blocked.

If the side roads are blocked, the main city boulevards now have all the charm of a row of burned-out garages. Actually, quite a lot of them are rows of burned-out garages. Although Khartoum was never pretty, it was once relaxed — but it is no longer. It is a common topic of conversation in Khartoum, this deterioration. As yet there is no consensus on the subject, but there is a lot of strong feeling. Hence the burned-out garages. Who burned them? My taxi driver (taking me to pick up my ticket in Cairo) says he forgets exactly who — but it was some riot or other. There have been quite a lot lately. My taxi driver tells me he wouldn't be surprised — since the traffic is so bad — if there wasn't a riot taking place at this very moment.

He was right. We caught the last thirty seconds of that morning's riot. Hurrying the car through a detachment of policemen grinning behind their riot visors, the driver shook a finger in irritation, as if to say well, people will riot you know. What else do you expect? Sudanese regard these street disturbances as first and foremost a traffic nuisance. The view that they are symptomatic of political crisis comes a very poor second. At least, that is how the Sudanese car owner sees it.

It's an outlook that is infectious. Of course people will riot. There is a sort of friendly riotous mood here. People think things have turned out badly for Sudan, and so... they riot. My driver says it is not a problem. He prefers to talk about his own problem, the fact that after three years in Cairo he has come home with a law degree that he has never used. "In Cairo I study Islamic law. This is my big mistake. Here already there are too many Islamic lawyers!" I sympathise, but he says he counts himself lucky to be driving a taxi.

And through the windows of his taxi, there certainly seem to be many people who would very much like a taxi driver's job. Or any other job. Although there are the hopeless cases who live in the skeletons of unfinished houses, only the visitor notices them. The ones that everyone notices, in groups on every street corner, are different. These people have unfamiliar, shiny black faces. They are the refugees from the civil war in the south. They are young men, at the age when they would expect to be at university. As if to demonstrate that fact — that they are serious young men, with reason to expect a much better deal than Khartoum is giving them — they carry tattered exercise books, although it is a long time since any of them attended any classes. Sometimes they ask you for "a small humanitarian gift," sometimes for "some assistance with my education." These requests are almost always made politely. But people say that day by day the young men from the south are growing more numerous, and less polite. There is a distinct feeling about that the days of the friendly riot are numbered.

After the disturbances of the day, the Khartoum night is utterly silent. That even goes for the airport, where I waited at four the next morning, standing on the tarmac underneath two big jets parked with their doors open and their lights off. There were nearly 60 of us, but we waited in near silence, speaking in whispers — perhaps because an empty jet with its doors open in the moonlight is a hopeless and depressing sight.

We were waiting for the only flight of the night, an Egyptian round trip from Cairo and back. Next to me a young Arabo-Speaking man was lounging on the breezeblock. He was going to study in Cairo University. His subject was veterinary science. I wished him well in his unusual choice of subject, but he explained that it was not his own choice. In fact, his difficulty was that he didn't like animals. But in Sudan you take what comes, he said, and made a gesture that seemed to include the entire city.

At twenty minutes past five we were all on board. Captain Islam had taxied us down the empty runway, swung the plane around to point south; and there we waited for less than a second.

Middle East International, London.

Norway investigates fate of heavy water sold to Israel

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuter

OSLO — A few hours drive west of Oslo is a grey industrial plant, set amid the mountains and rivers of Norway's Telemark region, that belies its mundane appearance.

The factory at Rjukan once housed Hitler's project to make heavy water in occupied Norway for atomic bombs — until it was blown up by resistance fighters in 1943, a feat immortalised in the Hollywood film "Heroes of Telemark".

But the plant, owned by the huge Norsk Hydro Corporation, has recently been linked to a less heroic episode in Norwegian history.

In 1959, 20 tonnes of heavy water from the rebuilt factory were delivered to Israel in a secret deal, followed by another

tonne sent in 1970.

The sales came to light only after Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor, told a British newspaper last year that his country had been making atomic bombs for two decades.

Vanunu is currently on trial in Israel, a country that refuses to confirm or deny that it possesses nuclear weapons, accused of betraying atomic secrets.

The water can be used in the preparation of plutonium for nuclear bombs or in nuclear energy projects.

Norwegian suspicions that its water had been used to make such weapons led parliamentarians to demand checks.

Now, after what Norwegian sources say have been months of stalling by Israel, Norway is trying to open more to gain access to the water.

"This month, we are sending a senior government official and a scientific expert to Israel to make a formal request," foreign ministry spokesman Per Paust told Reuters.

Norway has already sounded out Israel to see if it would permit independent inspection of the water by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has technology that can trace the water and show how it has been used.

Israel has said that it considers the IAEA to be politically biased against it and that the Norwegian water is now mixed with water from other countries, although it has not yet formally turned down the request.

Government sources have said that Norway might attempt to recall the water if no checks were allowed. Israel would be con-

sidered in breach of contract, they said.

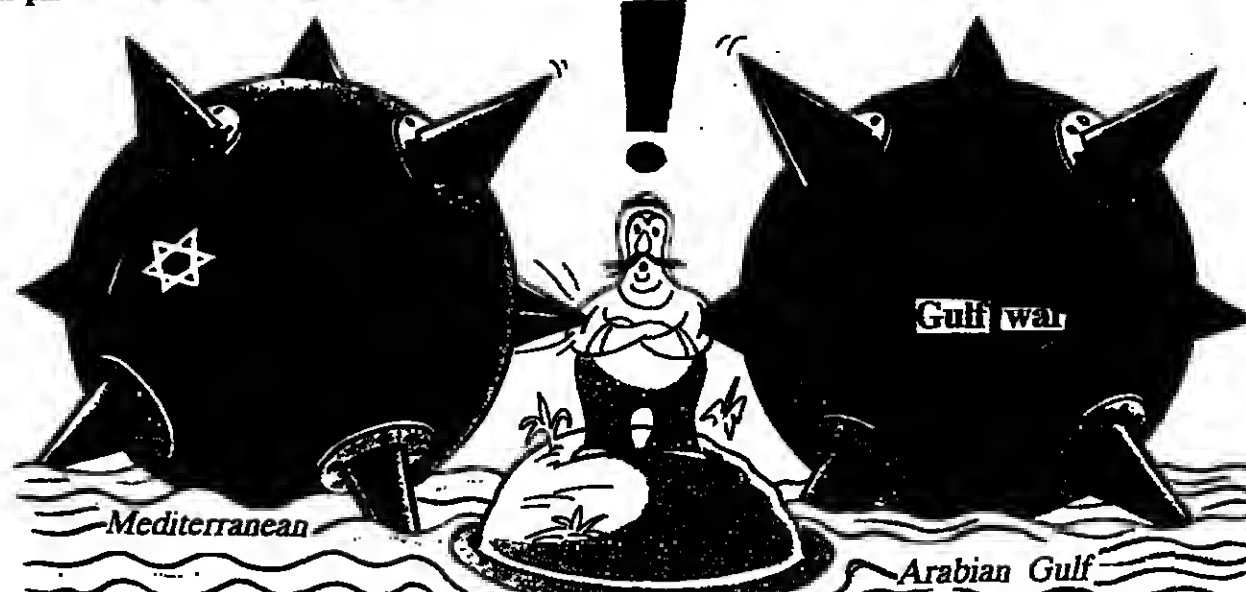
A preliminary study by Norwegian scientists, concluded in February, produced no conclusive evidence that Israel had used the water to make atomic bombs. But the government has not been content to let it rest at that.

"Israel has always said that it would never be the first country in the Middle East to use atomic weapons," one government source closely involved with the affair told Reuters.

"But most people are pretty sure that they have 'the bomb' and we have a chance of perhaps proving it. We mean business."

"It's ironic that Norwegians stopped Hitler developing the atomic bomb — and then may have given the people he tried to eradicate the means to produce these awful weapons."

Israel plants mines on Lebanese shores



Hamid-Al Ithad

Israeli Arabs intensify struggle for equality with Jews

By Gail Fitzer

Reuter

DABBORIEH — Israel's forgotten Arabs — the 700,000 who have been citizens of the Zionist state since its establishment in 1948 — have launched a new fight for equality with Jews.

Unlike the 1.4 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, whose often violent struggle for their own homeland captures world headlines, Israeli Arabs are waging a non-violent campaign for equal rights within the Jewish state.

"We want to be Israeli citizens with full rights and we want to be asked about things relating to our condition of life," said Samir Darwish, council chairman of Baka-Algharbiya, a large Arab town in central Palestine.

The Arabs are fighting what they say is discrimination in education, government funding and land allocation in favour of Israel's 3.5 million Jews, who enjoy a far higher standard of living.

In June, Israeli Arabs staged an unprecedented one-day general strike on "equality day."

And this month an estimated 200,000 Arab children boycotted classes on the first day of the Israeli school year in the latest of series of protest actions.

"We have begun our march and we cannot go back," Darwish said.

Most Israeli Arabs lived under military government for the first 18 years of the Jewish state's existence, with little self-administration and restricted rights of movement.

Although Arabs have civil rights today, they do not perform

compulsory military service, which many Israeli Jews regard as a pre-requisite for full citizenship.

After the September 1 schools protest, Israel's education ministry promised to build a long-demanded 1,800 classrooms for Arab schoolchildren in the next five years, but the government has yet to find the money.

Assad Azaizeh, council chairman of Dabborieh village in Galilee, told Reuters that Jewish settlements in Israel receive five times more government aid than Arab towns.

"A majority (of Arab villages) lack sewage, most have trouble getting water because their pipes are so old, many have no public buildings or public parks," Azaizeh said.

Dabborieh residents say they cannot afford to pave dirt roads and garbage is left on the streets in the hilltop village which is considered wealthy compared to other Arab towns.

Amos Glibo, adviser to the government on Arab affairs, admitted there was a gap between aid for Arab and Jewish towns, but said it was mainly because more developed areas received more government money.

"Because the Arab villages are less developed, they get less money. It is a vicious cycle. The Arabs need to get a boost in development budgets and ... to concentrate on developing their roads, water systems, public buildings and industry," he told Reuters.

Glibo said the government would provide \$9.5 million for development in Arab areas over the next two years and was working on a plan to supply \$45 million for development in 1992.

But Darwish said the govern-

ment also promised to raise the annual budget of Arab towns by \$2.5 million following the June general strike.

"Meanwhile we have seen nothing. They are waiting and don't want to seem like they are giving in. But they would be wise to act quickly because people don't believe the Israeli government wants them to be equal," he told Reuters.

Many Israeli Arabs consider themselves loyal citizens of the Jewish state, but are often at conflict with its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I am a Palestinian in my culture, heritage and language, but a loyal citizen. It is not easy that your nationality is always in a struggle with your statehood," he said.

The West Bank and Gaza are flashpoints of violence in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Palestinian youths hurl stones and petrol bombs at Israeli vehicles almost every day. Troops have fired at them to disperse protests against Israeli occupation.

Palestinian fighters carry out violent attacks on Jewish settlers and soldiers in the occupied areas.

Darwish said that even if a Palestinian state were established, "95 per cent of Israeli Arabs or more would say thank you, but I prefer to be here."

"We have solidarity to the Palestinian people to establish their own state, but that is it," he added.

Another major problem emphasised by Arab leaders con-

cerns land. They said agricultural land farmed by Arabs has for years been seized by the government and handed over to Jews to build new settlements.

They say the government refuses to grant them building licenses which would ease overcrowding in their villages, and so they are forced to build illegally.

"There is no ground, no land to build on. All Arab villages are now crowded. There is land that villagers own, fields that they work, and they won't let us build on them. They don't want Arab villages to expand," Azaizeh said.

Glibo disputed these claims, saying that since 1948 the Arab population in Israel had quadrupled, but the number of buildings it constructed had increased tenfold.

"It is pure planning. No government can afford to surrender vast lands for buildings. It needs land not only for new settlements but for roads and infrastructure."

"The Arabs blame us for taking land. It was true many years ago, but today it is reversed because they are conquering lands by illegal buildings," he said.

Regarding cramped conditions of classrooms for Arab children, Ali Haider, director of Arab education in Israel, said: "It is an insufferable situation. There are no windows, no air, no light."

After the school strike, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon agreed to build 21 new classrooms this year and 240 each year over the next five years.

LETTERS

Criticising the critic

To the Editor:

AS a Jordanian citizen and a lover of art, I was able to follow up the progress of the Second Circle. It is a monument that enhances its surroundings and gives immense pleasure to children and adults alike. The wheel which represents industry is in complete harmony with the waterfall which represents life — in other words the design of the circle is original and interesting.

I consider it poor taste when Randa Habib uses this circle as a filler for her corner. As I recall, a few months back there was a very negative paragraph regarding the waterfall of the circle because it was spraying passengers by and idle people going out of their office windows. Now a few weeks ago there was another paragraph — also negative as to why there was no water dripping down and spraying people. Does it never occur to her that there could be malfunctioning or technical problems or a very good reason for the water to stop and the grass uprooted. Why not look on the positive side — the beauty and combination of stone, greenery and water? Why not for instance write about the beautiful 5th Circle which was razed to the ground to install traffic lights which result in traffic jams? Or the vast highway in Adloun which was never needed.

Hats off to the designer of the Second Circle. I would like to see some more of those "avant garde" monuments in Amman.

One last suggestion: Ms. Habib could move her office to another dry location. Maybe there will not be any more "inspiration" to write negative filler articles about the circle but about more useful things.

Mrs. Aida Dajani
P.O. Box 14248
Amman — Jordan

Sanaa plans new tourist facilities

By Walid Ghorab

SANAA — The Yemen Arab Republic, land of the legendary Queen Sheba, is still attracting tourists from the West and East alike in larger numbers.

Its historical attractions, such as the ruins of Marib Dam, the Al Janad Mosque and the Salah Palace in Taiz, and the Dhafar antiquities have always kept visitors spell-bound.

The number of tourists, mostly from the United States, Europe, Japan, and Korea, exceeded 40,000 in 1985, bringing in a revenue of \$17 million. And the revenue from tourism went up to \$22 million last year.

Encouraged by the tourist influx, the Sanaa government has chalked out a comprehensive programme to develop the country's potential to lure visitors and make their sojourn quite comfortable.

The republic's General Tourism Corporation plans to offer package tours of the major tourist resorts where new facilities will be established.

The government is shifting the emphasis in its publicity from sightseeing at its ancient monuments to prolonged stays in the country with a view to boosting the revenue.

Munasher Al Heifi, the corporation's director general, said his organisation had contributed toward building a number of first class and second class hotels in Taiz and Marib besides overseeing the administration of some hotels.

Established in 1976, the corporation invests in projects which are economically feasible, and looks after facilities in the country. It launches campaigns for attracting tourists, domestic as well as foreign and conduct training programmes.

Heifi is hopeful that the tourist inflow would double in the near future. The majority of last year's 45,000 tourists came from Germany and France, he noted.

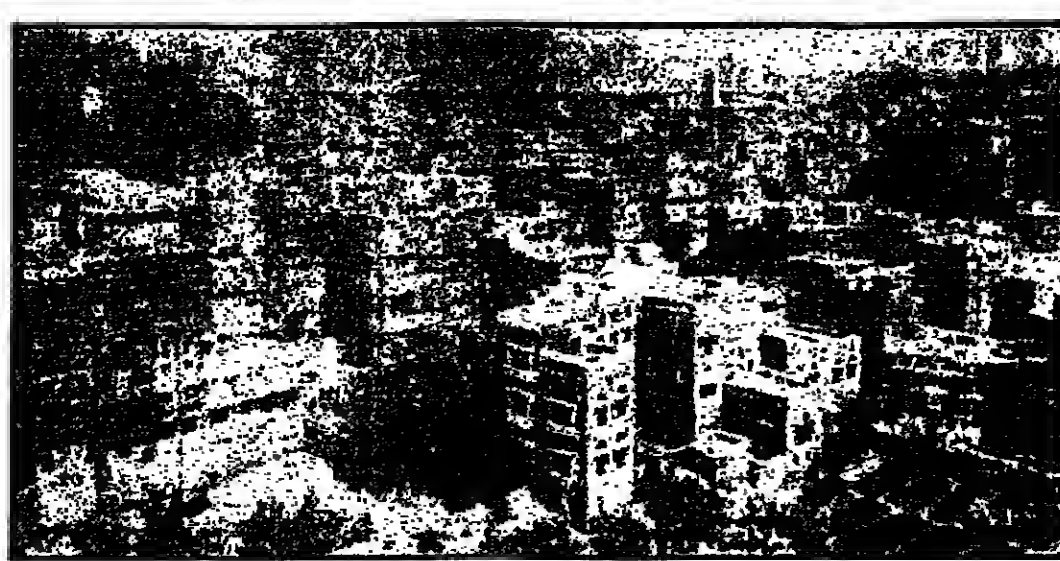
He said the country is trying to increase this revenue by offering incentives to tourists to spend more. "For that we have to make the necessary arrangements and establish facilities to let them stay for a longer period. For example, in Spain and Italy visitors stay more than two weeks thanks to the outstanding facilities available there."

The government is now investing in tourism projects along the coastal areas. A lot of opportunities are available for Arab businessmen in the field. "There is a tourist village project in Sanaa which is being financed by the government apart from another project at the Faza region. New projects will be established in other parts of the country."

Yemen's long and enchanting coastal area has always attracted tourists. Most of the visitors go there to admire the archaeological wonders projected in the ancient structures. There are beautiful resorts in the townships of Saada, Kaukabat, Marib, Zubaid, Beit Al Fageeh, Jof, Bratish, Sarwah, Jablah and Hamad apart from the hilltop resorts in Taaz and Aab.

The republic also has many mineral springs, known for their curative values for rheumatism and skin diseases. There are a number of such facilities in different parts of the country, especially in the provinces of Aab, Hadidah and Dimar and most of them are under private ownership. The springs of Wadi Al Jar and Ali in Sanaa are quite famous.

The corporation plans to attract more investments on the spring projects, particularly on the Dumt spring in Aab as its water is effective for treating



A view of Sanaa which has remained capital from time immemorial — perhaps more than most other capitals, according to the records. Even modern buildings are still designed the old traditional way.



The main gate of Sanaa, called Bab Al Yemen, was recently restored to its old glory. It is probably thousands of years old.

allergy, skin and eye diseases as well as rheumatism. Heifi said. It is proposed to establish 60 beach cabins and a 60-bed hotel apart from some medical facilities near the Dumt spring.

Among the problems facing the tourism industry, according to Heifi, is the dearth of roads leading to the coastal resorts. "We hope new roads will be constructed shortly," he said. Moreover new luxury buses are to be introduced for the convenience of tourists. The country is expanding its tourist facilities gradually, but it will take time, he added.

Another problem is getting entry visas, and the corporation has approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate visa procedures, Heifi said.

The corporation plans to train students on undertaking tourism activities and has sent some of them to Tunisia, Italy and Austria for this purpose. An institute will be established shortly as part of the three-year development plan for training the national cadre in hotel and tourism activities — Arab News.

King emphasises need for Mideast conference

(Continued from page 1)

five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, should aim at implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the area's problems.

The King said Jordan appreciated the Swiss support for the proposed conference and a Swiss offer to host the meeting in Geneva.

The King also called on the Swiss government to use its good offices to convince Israel of the need to hold the conference and attend it.

Another problem affecting Middle East stability, the King said, is the continuation and escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Referring to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, King Hussein called on the international community to take the necessary measures to force Iran to accept the resolution.

He said Switzerland had a major role to play in urging Iran end the war, either through bilateral contacts with the Tehran government or through the international community's efforts in this direction.

The King also praised the Swiss confederation's political system and neutrality vis-a-vis world issues saying it had served as a model for nationalism in a society characterised by pluralism of languages and culture.

In a reply speech, President Aubert said that Their Majesties' visit had a special significance and provided the opportunity to resume the Jordanian-Swiss dialogue which began two years ago in Jordan.

President Aubert paid tribute to the King's intense efforts towards restoring security and stability to the Middle East through comprehensive and just peace.

Mr. Aubert voiced his country's full readiness to extend all support to achieve this goal.

The Swiss leader said he realised the impact on Europe and the world as a whole of the grave developments in the Mideast. Switzerland fully backs the proposal for holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East to restore peace and stability to the region, he said.

He said his country was very proud of its long-standing relations with Jordan.

He said Switzerland follows with interest and support the endeavours of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as chairman of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI).

President Aubert also paid tribute to the King's leadership, which, he said, has succeeded in leading Jordan towards progress and prosperity and expressed his admiration of the Kingdom's achievements.

The King started his visit to Switzerland Thursday with a round of talks with President Aubert. The talks focused on the Middle East question, the Gulf conflict and Jordan-Swiss cooperation.

Petra reported that the King and Mr. Aubert were later joined by senior aides for enlarged meetings that discussed in detail the Middle East question. The King outlined Jordan's views with regard to the Palestine problem and said that peace could be achieved through an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The two sides also discussed the Gulf conflict and both voiced their backing for Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the war.

While discussing Jordanian-Swiss relations, the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in trade, tourism, industrial and technological fields.

It said Switzerland agreed to offer Jordan 80 million Swiss francs in grants and loans to help it carry out its national development schemes.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordan's Ambassador to Switzerland Adnan Talhoum.

On the Swiss side the talks were attended by the Swiss ministers of transport, communications, energy and economy and defence as well as Switzerland's Ambassador to Jordan Harald Bomer.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Bern earlier Thursday for the three-day state visit and were accorded an official welcome ceremony in which the president and senior Swiss officials took part.

On Thursday the King and Queen met with heads of foreign diplomatic missions in Switzerland.

In the evening President Aubert hosted a banquet for the King and Queen and the Jordanian delegation.

In an interview with Swiss Television, on the eve of the visit, the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and reiterated that an international conference was the only means to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Following are the questions and answers in the interview:

Question: Do you expect Switzerland to play a more active role in Middle East mediation, specially with regard to the international Middle East peace conference?

Answer: Well, I hope we can exchange views on recent developments in which we have been involved and certainly gain the support of our friends which we hope will contribute to the establishment of peace in this area.

I don't have any particular expectations but I hope we will understand each other as a result of this visit.

Q: Do you feel there was progress or is progress with regard to a Middle East conference?

A: I believe there has been a lot uncovered and there is certainly a feeling on both the Arab side as well as the rest of the world that we should act and we should act soon as time is passing and there are changes on the ground are such that unless a solution is on its way to the convening of an international conference sponsored by the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as the parties to the conflict partaking to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 and to deal with the Palestinian problem and all its aspects for a comprehensive peace in this area. If this change is lost within the very near future, I believe that the future will be bleak for all those concerned.

Q: Would you expect Israel to give back all the occupied territories or would Jordan be ready to negotiate even on the basis that Israel would give back only parts?

A: Jordan will negotiate together with other Arab states and we visualise Syria as negotiating on its occupied territories as well as hopefully Lebanon and Egypt. We hope very much that indeed the Palestinians will also be involved and the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people should receive an invitation to attend on the basis of 242 and 338 resolutions on the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, and the acceptance of the premises to solve the problem. And obviously 242, in terms of this, speaks of the inadmissibility of occupying territory by war. So the equation must be territory for peace.

Beyond that I cannot say very much and I believe that at this stage with the negotiations at the international conference are the only way to resolve this problem. Obviously there must be a just solution acceptable to the future generations because security in this part of the world is very difficult to visualise unless there is a feeling of people on all sides that the settlement in their interest to preserve peace for all time to come.

Q: How about the conflict in the Gulf? Your Majesty made the comment that Western powers and other powers no should stop delivering weapons to Iran. Do you feel that this appeal of yours has found any echo?

A: Well, we have the Security Council resolution. We have all the United Nations initiatives for the cessation of this senseless war which has entered its eighth year and has caused so much loss in human life and misery which has caused both countries to suffer economically.

So I believe that unless the Security Council resolution is accepted and implemented, there must be actions taken to ensure an end to this war. And the two sides to the conflict have their terms for accepting the resolution. Otherwise the positive response to the will of the world or the negative ones should not be treated equally. I believe that the war will end when Iran will know it cannot win it and that Iraq is not seeking to win it.

So what we are seeking is a complete ceasefire and a return to international borders and the exchange of prisoners of war and negotiations to settle the problem and to have relations based on mutual respect and non-interference of each other's affairs and of others in the area.

So if Iran should refuse and continue to charter a course for continued turmoil in the area, something must be done to contribute towards its realisation that it cannot continue to arm itself and fight a war that is so costly and unnecessary.

Q: Do you feel that the presence of Western powers with their fleets in the Gulf is a constructive situation or does it complicate the situation?

A: Well, freedom of navigation is very important element in the terms of relations between nations. I do believe that this action taken so far it is not in itself a solution. A solution is to concentrate all efforts to end this war.

Swiss newspapers described the meeting between King Hussein and Mr. Aubert on Thursday as "candid and constructive."

According to the French-language daily Tribune de Geneve, King Hussein did not ask the Swiss leadership to exert any diplomatic efforts to improve the situation in the Arabian Gulf despite Switzerland's good relations with Iraq and Iran.

The paper said that the U.S. and Soviet Union were the only parties which could push forward prospects of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

According to the daily 24 Heures, the King made "a detailed, yet pessimistic, analysis of the situation" in the Gulf and the Middle East.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

- Sat. — Sept. 19, 1987
- 8:30 Together We Stand
 - 9:00 Variety Show
 - 10:30 Feature Film: Kingpin
 - Starring: Raymond Burr
 - Laura, who owns newspapers and TV stations asks (Kingston), the deep-rooted journalist to find out why the editor-in-chief of her greatest newspaper has changed his thoughts and attitude.
- Sun. — Sept. 20, 1987
- 8:30 Charles in Charge
 - A Date From Heck
 - 9:10 Nuclear power: In France it works
 - The French generate the cheapest electricity in Europe with enough surplus to sell a billion dollars worth each year to other countries — what they know, and how they learned it, is the subject of this programme.
 - 10:20 Hunter
 - 11:10 Open All Hours
- Mon. — Sept. 21, 1987
- 8:30 Allo Allo
 - 9:10 Mountain Men
 - By the mid-19th Century the golden age of mountaineering had arrived. Around Europe, Alpinism was all the rage, as statesmen and poets, sportsmen and eccentrics flocked to the mountains. Into this strange, assorted world of mountaineers came an extraordinary young woman, determined to overcome the rules and conventions of polite Victorian society and to stand on top of the world. Lucy Walker was born into a climbing family, and, inspired by the tales of her father and brother, demanded to accompany them on their 1858 expedition to the Alps. During the trip the Walker family sought the help of the talented Alpine guide Melchior Anderegg. For Lucy it was to be the beginning of a relationship which was to last 40 years and yield almost a hundred successful expeditions.
- Tue. — Sept. 22, 1987
- 8:30 Double Trouble
 - 9:10 Magnum
 - 10:20 This Year's Blonde
 - ...Recognising something special in starlet Marilyn Monroe (Constance Forslund), agent Johnny Hyde (Lloyd Bridges) risks his career and his health to see that she gets noticed by the right people.
- Wed. — Sept. 23, 1987
- 8:30 Don't Wait Up
 - 9:10 Magnet Earth
 - Horizon
 - The earth is enveloped within an invisible blanket of magnetism. A great many influences have shaped and continue to modify conditions on the surface of our planet — light and dark, temperature, pressure, humidity. But where does the magnetism come from? What does it do? What difference does it make to life on the surface of earth? Is there a direct link between the earth's field and living organisms? Horizon examines all these questions which only recently have begun to be answered and reports on progress in research into the magnetic field.
- Thur. — Sept. 24, 1987
- 8:30 Kate and Allie
 - Charles Marries Claire
 - 9:10 You Don't Have to Walk to Fly
 - 10:20 Feature Film: Four Seasons
 - Starring: Alan Alda, Carol Burnett, Len Cariou
 - Leslie Jenner Hawkeford confronts Allied agent Geoffrey Moore, insisting U.S. Intelligence agent David Spaulding is a dupe in a treasonous plan to exchange industrial diamonds — needed by the Nazis to make their Peenemunde rocket base operative — for high-altitude gyroscopes — needed by the Allies — at the height of World War II, in the final two-hour segment of "the Rhinemann Exchange."



This Year's Blonde: Tuesday at 10:20

Sandy Dennis

Fri. — Sept. 25, 1987

- 8:30 Bill Cosby Show
- Say Hello to a Good Buy
- 9:10 Falcon Crest
- 10:20 Equalizer

Superpowers reach INF agreement

(Continued from page 1)

during the talks between the secretary of state and the foreign minister in Moscow in October."

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev have met twice before, in Geneva in November 1985 and in Iceland in October last year.

The next summit is scheduled to be held in Washington.

The agreement to abolish medium-range nuclear missiles will be the first superpower accord since the nuclear age dawned 40 years ago which calls for destruction of nuclear weapons. It is also the first superpower arms treaty in nearly a decade.

The United States currently has 348 medium-range cruise and Pershing-2 warheads while the Soviet Union has more than 1,500 on SS-20, SS-4, SS-12 and SS-23 rockets. Most of these weapons, with ranges between 500 kilometres to 5,000 kilometres, are in Europe.

Asked whether Mr. Gorbachev would be in the United States by Thanksgiving — the annual American holiday which this year falls on Nov. 26 — Mr. Reagan

RJ hijack suspect held

(Continued from page 1)

Meese told the press briefing. But unlike many other incidents, the one to which Younis is charged wasn't directed at the United States or Israel.

Amid extremely tight security, Younis appeared before a U.S. magistrate in Washington on charges of hostage-taking, conspiracy and destruction of an aircraft, which could result in a term of life imprisonment if he is convicted.

Younis pleaded innocent to the June 11, 1985, hijacking of the RJ jetliner at Beirut, on which two U.S. citizens and two U.S. resident foreigners were travelling. Younis was ordered held without bail and was taken to an undisclosed location.

Younis is a "full-time employee of the Amal militia and works for Nabih Berri," another senior Justice Department official told the press briefing.

Berri is Lebanon's justice minister and also is leader of the Amal militia, a group allied with Syria.

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Spaniard moves to tennis finals

Moroccans advance in Mediterranean games

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Fifteen-year-old Conchita Martínez of Spain moved into the finals of the women's tennis singles in the 18-nation Mediterranean games on Friday with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over second-seeded Laura Lapi of Italy.

Martínez, the European under-16 champion, will face either top-seed Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece or fifth-seeded Francesca Romano of Italy for the gold medal on Monday.

Martínez drove Lapi around the clay court in the second set, often charging the net while Lapi, no. 202 in professional rankings, tried to hold a serve and volley game.

"I have much confidence now for the finals," Martíñez said after the match.

Turkey guaranteed itself a place in the men's volleyball medal round with a straight-set victory over France Friday morning. Turkey and Spain will meet Italy and Syria in the finals starting Sunday.

Undefeated Albania on Thursday virtually clinched a gold in women's volleyball by beating Lebanon for its fourth victory in the six-team tournament. Albanian is expected to beat relatively weak Syria to clinch the gold.

Italy marked the end of the tournament's swimming events on Thursday by taking four of five gold medals, bringing its games-leading total to 37. Spain is second with nine.

Freestyle swimmer Giorgio Lambert won his fifth gold medal as part of the Italian 400-metre medley relay team, which won

evenly spread and domination by the European states less striking. Of the Arab countries, host Syria has done best so far with three gold medals, two in Greco-Roman wrestling and one from gymnastics.

North African states especially look like getting a chance from track and field to improve their showing, so far limited to one silver medal apiece for Tunisia and Morocco.

Morocco's Said Aouita, holder of four world records and world and Olympic champion at 5,000 metres, is entered for four events — 10,000, 5,000, 1,500 and 800 metres — though he may not take part in all.

Other North African hopefuls include his compatriot Nawal Al-Moutawakil, who won a gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles in the 1984 Olympics, and teenage sisters Nadia and Zohra Ouaziz, in contention for the women's 1,500 and 3,000 metres titles.

From Tunisia, steeplechaser Fethi Baccouche could be a medal winner and Algeria's Yasmine Azzi has a good chance of doing well in the heptathlon. Arab champion in the 20 km walk, Algerian Fergene Abdul-Wahab, is also entered for that event.

Morocco's Arafat Chakrouni and Khalid Butaleh guaranteed their country at least a silver medal in the men's tennis singles by advancing into a Friday showdown in the semifinal.

The winner will play for the gold medal while the loser will challenge for a bronze. Chakrouni, the Arab world's

no. 1, easily defeated an exhausted Igor Sariq 6-4, 6-1. The Yugoslav, who played two long matches in the humid Latakia climate Wednesday, collapsed after the game with Chakrouni and required medical attention.

Butaleh, who graduated in June from Florida Institute of Technology in the United States, took a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Frenchman Rafael Pedros, who struggled with his serve throughout the second and third sets.

"I beat him psychologically first," Butaleh said, but he added that Friday's match against his teammate would be tougher.

"It's very difficult to play against a guy you practice with," he said.

In tennis, the Arab world's no. 1, Chakrouni, moved into the semi-final round with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over an exhausted Igor Sariq of Yugoslavia, who collapsed after the game and required medical attention.

Butaleh had been ill after playing more than three hours Wednesday in the humid Latakia weather to defeat Ioannis Rigas of Greece.

Butaleh, ranked no. 10 among U.S. division II college players last year, played a steady game as Pedros' powerful serve fell apart in the second set.

The top-rated player at the games, Greece's Angeliki Kanellopoulou, easily defeated Turkey's Duygu Aksit 6-0, 6-1 Wednesday to breeze into the semi final round, where she'll face Francesca Romano of Italy.

Chakrouni, the Arab world's

Rangers make Liverpool nervous in league battle

LONDON (R) — Liverpool will watch English Soccer League leaders Queen's Park Rangers (QPR) at Oxford on Saturday with the fixed attention of a cat preparing to pounce on a mouse.

QPR have already seen off such big names as Everton, Chelsea and Arsenal and their trip to struggling Oxford, who have let in 14 goals in six games, should be a formality despite the continued absence of key defender Mark Dennis with a knee injury.

Big QPR, unaccustomed to a sustained stay at the top of the first division, will feel the ever-increasing pressure from third-placed Liverpool, who are only six points behind and have two games in hand.

Liverpool, 16 times English champions, play on Sunday when their \$3.1-million signing Peter Beardsley returns to his old club, Newcastle, for the first time.

He will come up against Mirandinha, the first Brazilian to play in the English League, who scored both goals in Newcastle's 2-2 draw against Manchester United last Saturday.

"In Brazil I am said to be a greedy player and that I do not deny," Mirandinha said. "I am greedy for goals because that is what I am paid to do — score."

Manchester United, like QPR and Liverpool unbeaten this season, have undergone extra training for their match against defending champions Everton on Saturday.

United's Danish striker Jesper Olsen is expected to pass as fit after a muscle strain but Irish defender Kevin Moran has pulled out of the side with a calf injury.

Everton hope to have strikers Graeme Sharp and Wayne Clark back in action but the injuries which have dogged the team and left them floundering in mid-table are far from over and defender Pat Pender will be missing.

England striker Chris Waddle faces a fitness test before second-placed Tottenham's trip across London to play West Ham.

West Ham have Tom McClellan on standby to replace fullback George Parris, who needed eye checks after being concussed last weekend.

Glasgow Rangers turn their thoughts from trying to stay in the European Cup — they lost 1-0 to Dynamo Kiev in the first leg of the first round on Wednesday.

Waldegaard wins Asian rally

PEKING (R) — A mystery car breakdown cost Stig Blomqvist a crucial half-hour in the closing stages of the Hoog Kong to Peking motor rally and handed victory on Friday to fellow Swede Bjorn Waldegaard.

It was third time lucky for the hefty 43-year-old Waldegaard, who was forced out of the same event in both of the last two years because of engine trouble.

"It's fantastic. I feel happy and tired," said Waldegaard, 1979 world rally champion, as he relaxed at the finishing line on an avenue of giant stone animals at the ancient Ming tombs outside Peking.

His winning time of nine hours and 57 seconds was 30 minutes seven seconds ahead of runner-up Mike Kirkland of Kenya, driving a Nissan Silvia.

Blomqvist, who was last year's winner of the six-day, 3,800 km rally, was 49 seconds ahead of his arch-rival Toyota Supra when misfortune struck around midnight on a gravel mountain track 400 km from the end.

"It was ecstasy to down in the dumps in one fell swoop," said Andrew Marriott, deputy director of Blomqvist's 555 team, describing how the motor of his Ford Sierra went dead suddenly with only 17 km of actual racing still to go.

Two mechanics ran four km to the end of the rally section to seek replacement electrical parts, but then the car started as mysteriously as it had stopped 36 minutes earlier.

Blomqvist had suffered a suspension failure in the early stages of the rally, but recovered to take the lead from Waldegaard on Wednesday and looked set for victory as his four-wheel drive vehicle coped well on dusty, slippery roads.

But he was philosophical about being forced into third place. "These things can happen," said Blomqvist, who shares with Waldegaard a reputation for tactility, as he quaffed consolation champagne atop his car at a brief ceremony in Peking's vast Tiananmen Square, specially cleared of people for the occasion.

Drivers said huge throngs of people had lined their route in places. But Waldegaard said the authorities had organised the rally better than in previous years when crowd control and fuel supply were problems.

Kevin Gormley, co-driver of the 555 team's other Ford Sierra, said his trickiest driving in China had not been in the rally itself but during the reconnoitering of the route.

Gormley, whose car was one of 35 out of 60 entries not to finish the course, said China's dirt roads were littered with abandoned vehicles which were just left in the middle of the road after accidents and breakdowns. Lorries were badly over-loaded, he said.

Another driver said he had seen the debris of some horrific accidents, including one truck which, careening out of control down a hill, had demolished the wall of the factory where it was built before smashing into a tree.

Following are the provisional timings over 21 special stages for the first six teams in the Hong Kong to Peking Rally which ended on Friday.

1. Bjorn Waldegaard (Sweden)/Fred Gallagher (Britain) Toyota Supra 3.01. Nine hours zero minutes and 57 seconds.

2. Mike Kirkland (Kenya)/Robin Nixon (Britain) Nissan Silvia 9:31.04.

3. Stig Blomqvist (Sweden)/Bruno Berglund (Sweden) Ford Sierra XR 4WD 9:34.25.

4. Yoshio Iwasaki/Yoshihiro Nakahara (Japan) Nissan Silvia 9:42.55.

5. Motoonobu Takehira/Hiroki Uchiyama (Japan) Nissan Pulsar 10:11.31.

6. Toshiaki Endo/Masashi Umino (Japan) Nissan 240RS 10:17.02.

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Seoul begins Olympics countdown

SEOUL (Agencies) — Fireworks lit up the sky and people danced in the streets on Thursday night as the South Korean capital celebrated the start of the final year-long countdown to the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

Putting aside fears of a possible boycott by communist nations, a cheering crowd outside Seoul City Hall watched on live television as International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials in Lausanne, Switzerland, despatched invitations to a record 167 nations to compete in the sports extravaganza.

Seoul Mayor Yum Bo-Hyun told the crowd: "The games will be the biggest festival in mankind's history, a source of pride for Seoul citizens and a great honour for 60 million Koreans."

The population of the divided peninsula is about 60 million, with 42 million in the South and the rest in the North.

A "giantic doll" representing Hodori, the tiger mascot of the games, was swung triumphantly on to the roof of city hall from a neighbouring hotel as 1,500 doves fluttered into the night air.

At the Olympic complex across the Han River, a spectacular fireworks display lit up the night sky while thousands watched a show by South Korea's top popular music stars.

The public joy in Seoul contrasted with the official concern here and elsewhere that North Korea might still contrive to disrupt next year's Olympics if it fails to win the right to co-host the games.

On a day devised to avoid politics, the dispute between North Korea and South Korea over hosting next summer's Olympics dove deeper into the political realm Thursday.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said he would try to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev within the next four months to discuss Pyongyang's demands to stage part of the games.

Samaranch also sent a letter to North Korea's Olympic chief, rejecting a call for a fifth set of joint talks and urging him to accept a package of five sports on the table for the last two months. In separate remarks, he took a swipe at the North's stand.

The head of South Korea's Olympic Committee, meanwhile, ruled out joint talks with the North, saying Pyongyang was the panel's enemy.

Chong Hwa, the panel's president, said Seoul preferred to keep negotiating through the IOC, which has staged four sets of joint talks already.

And the president of the panel setting up the Seoul Olympics said he was willing to consider a mention of the North in the name of the games, but only if agreement is reached on other matters.

The IOC invited 167 National Olympic Committees to send "the youth of the world, the best athletes from all countries," to the '88 games, one year away.

"The International Olympic Committee has the honour to invite the (NOCs) to participate

in the games of the 24th Olympiad, which will take place at Seoul from Sept. 17 to Oct. 2 1988," the invitation said.

Previously, invitations were issued by the local organising committees of each games. But after the Soviet Union and most of its allies boycotted the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, the IOC decided to take over the issuance in hopes of quelling political brushfires.

That hope did not survive the mailing.

While the invitation, in accordance with the Olympic charter, mentioned only Seoul, a cover letter from Samaranch noted the North-South negotiations. The president also referred prominently to the dispute during his speech at the crowded ceremony in the IOC's headquarters that was broadcast live to South Korea.

"We have not yet reached a final agreement, but the ceremony today should not be interpreted as meaning there will not be one," he said. "I can assure you that the IOC will always keep the door open until the very last moment, as we should be more than pleased to see all 167 nations of the world taking part in these historical Olympic Games."

North Korea demanded in mid-1985 to stage half the 23 sports in the '88 games, which were awarded to Seoul four years earlier.

Through the four joint meetings, the North's demand has been whittled to at least six events.

Blue Jays strike out

NEW YORK (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays struck out arguing about strike three and it cost them a share of first place in the American League East.

A strange play, sparked by a reversed call, led to New York's tying run in the eighth inning Thursday night and the ejection of Toronto manager Jimmy Williams. Dan Pasqua's RBI single with two outs in the ninth gave the Yankees a 6-5 victory.

The Blue Jays, who had won three straight, slipped one-half game behind Detroit.

What triggered Williams' ire came with one out in the eighth with Toronto ahead 5-4. Pinch-hitter Phil Lombardi struck out on a low pitch from David Wells, and catcher Ernie Whitt and Lombardi both looked toward first-base umpire and crew chief Joe Brinkman.

Brinkman emphatically gestured that Whitt caught the ball cleanly, and Whitt then began tossing the ball around the infield while Lombardi, still unsure of his status, slowly trotted toward first.

But the athletics, with 39 events at stake, offer the likelihood that honours will be more

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6530/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3140/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8085/95	West German marks
	2.0350/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4980/90	Swiss francs
	37.53/56	Belgian francs
	6.0300/50	French francs
	1306/1307	Italian lira
	147.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.3550/600	Swedish crowns
	6.6225/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.9575/9625	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	461.70/462.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were near the day's highs in active afternoon business after a lower than expected rise in U.K. bank lending data for August and a higher opening on Wall Street, dealers said.

The market firmed early on following Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's reiteration on Thursday of recent comments that the U.K. economy is not in danger of overheating, and that last month's one-point base rate rise to 10 per cent was enough.

By 1409 GMT Friday, the FTSE 100 index was up 25.5 points to 2,330 after a high of 2,333.8 just after the Wall Street opening. Prices forged ahead after the 1030 GMT announcement of a much smaller than anticipated £2 billion rise in August bank lending. Analysts had been forecasting a rise of up to £3 billion following July's massive and unexpected £4.9 billion bulge in bank lending, dealers said.

July's bank lending figures had upset the markets, raising fears that U.K. clearing bank base lending rates might have to move above the 10 per cent level set in early August.

Some pressure on rates was relieved by the explanation that July's money supply bulge was caused by increased corporate borrowing and not a surge in inflationary consumer borrowing.

Chase Manhattan reduces stake in S. Arabian bank

RIYADH (AP) — Chase Manhattan Bank of New York is selling one-fourth of its holdings in its joint venture bank, the Riyadh-based Saudi Investment Bank (SAIB), banking executives said Thursday.

The executives, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that Chase will sell five per cent of SAIB to National Industrialisation Company (NIC). The deal will leave Chase with 15 per cent of SAIB.

The Chase share, plus another NIC buyout of an SAIB joint venture partner, will give NIC 10 per cent of SAIB, the kingdom's smallest bank.

But NIC's deals will not be finalised until bank foreign shareholders are given a chance to buy the shares, the executives said.

NIC has also concluded a deal with Commerzbank A.G. of West Germany to buy that bank's five per cent share of SAIB.

France announces \$5.3b in tax cuts for next year

PARIS (AP) — Taxes for French businesses and households will be cut by 31.8 billion francs (\$5.26 billion) next year, the government announced Thursday in its 1988 draft budget.

Budget Minister Alain Juppé said the draft also would reduce France's budget deficit for 1988 to 114.9 billion francs (\$19 billion), down from 129 billion francs (\$21.32 billion) in 1987.

The draft budget for 1988, to be debated in parliament in the coming months, provides for a real, or inflation-adjusted, increase in public spending of 1.9 per cent next year, Mr. Juppé said.

Mr. Juppé said after a weekly cabinet meeting that the plans would bring the total amount of

tax cuts for 1987 and 1988 to 69 billion francs (\$11.4 billion).

At the meeting, President Francois Mitterrand said he was concerned about a rising inflation rate — estimated in the budget at 2.5 per cent for next year — and about France's external trade deficit.

The draft calls for total expenditure to rise by 2.8 per cent to 1,084 billion francs (\$179.2 billion) while revenue is slated to rise by 4.7 per cent to 968.7 billion francs (\$160.1 billion).

The government has promised to reduce the deficit by about 15 billion francs (\$2.4 billion) annually between 1986 and 1989, by which time it would be equivalent to the interest on the national debt.

European Community threatens to hit back at U.S. trade bill

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) said on Thursday it would retaliate in kind if the United States adopts a bill to curb textile, clothing and shoe imports which has just been passed by the House of Representatives.

"If such a law were adopted, the Community would be obliged to take retaliatory measures against U.S. products," said a statement by External Relations Commissioner Willy De Clercq.

The bill, passed by the House on Wednesday, goes now for Senate discussion. It would limit the increase in textile and clothing imports to one per cent a year and freeze non-rubber footwear imports at 1986 levels.

The White House says President Reagan, whose administration generally dislikes protectionist measures, opposes the bill and could try to veto it.

Mr. De Clercq said the bill could endanger a multi-fibre agreement which regulates world trade in textiles, and a fight over textiles between the United States and EC risked damage to world trade generally.

Congressional pressure for laws to protect U.S. firms and

jobs from a tide of imports has intensified this year as figures show a stubbornly high U.S. trade deficit. Total imports to the United States outran exports in July by nearly \$16.5 billion.

Earlier on Thursday, Asian exporters said the latest House bill could create havoc in world trade, but exporters in Hong Kong and Japan said they were confident President Reagan would veto it, as he did similar legislation in late 1985.

Mr. Chan Kee, a director of the Hong Kong Garment Manufacturers Association, was encouraged by the bill's failure to gain the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto.

Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said they were sure the bill would be vetoed.

The EC and the United States have had difficult trade relations for a number of years, provoked largely by the EC's emergence as a food exporter and its consequent invasion of traditional U.S. export markets.

In August, the two resolved a long-running row over EC subsidies for exports of pasta.

Banker sees dollar's base collapsing

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — A leading Japanese banker said Thursday that the U.S. dollar is in danger of collapsing and said the Japanese yen and the European Currency Unit (ECU) should be upgraded to the status of the dollar in the international financial system.

Speaking to members of the European Parliament, Mr. Yusuke Kashiwagi, chairman of the Bank of Tokyo Ltd., said Western economies should prepare "as quickly as possible" for the possible collapse of the dollar. "The dollar standard has started to break down," he said.

"We need to prepare (for the collapse) as quickly as possible by replacing the present standard with a system of multiple key currencies," he said.

He said external liabilities of the United States will pass the \$1 trillion mark within the next four years according to current estimates. "This deterioration of the U.S. economy is expected to lead to a decline in confidence in the dollar," he said.

To prevent what he called "turmoil in international monetary affairs," Mr. Kashiwagi said, the 12-nation European Community (EC) should turn the ECU into a "key currency."

That process, he said, could be accomplished in four stages.

All EC countries should recognise the ECU as an officially accepted foreign currency "in its own right," rather than a mere currency index.

The use of the ECU by citizens should be completely deregulated.

Countries issuing the currencies on which the ECU is based should set up a "lender of last resort" by depositing money in their respective currencies with the European Monetary Cooperation Fund which would make ECU-denominated loans in exchange.

The exchange rate mechanism should be strengthened by incorporating all EC currencies. "Specifically, I have the British pound in mind," he said. The currencies of Greece, Spain and Portugal are also still outside the system.

Islamic group extends \$22.5m in trade credits

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — An investment committee formed by 21 banks from Muslim countries has approved \$22.5 million towards the financing of foreign trade operations among participating states. The investment portfolio was established in March this year and will be managed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The credits are to be extended to companies from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq and Kuwait for a variety of import and export operations involving crude oil, aluminium, copper, plastics, electrical appliances, cement, building materials, leather, tyres and textiles.

World Bank predicts record lending, asks for more capital

WASHINGTON (AP) — Loans by the World Bank to Third World countries may reach a record \$19 billion this year, the World Bank said in its annual report released Thursday.

President Barber Conable said he is also asking its 151 member governments for \$40 to \$80 billion in more capital so lending can go even higher.

The share of the United States, which owns the largest bloc of the bank's stock, would be about 20 per cent, spending of which would be sure to meet strong opposition.

"We hope for approval in this fiscal year," which ends next June 30, Mr. Conable told reporters at a news conference. He estimated that lending would be \$20 or \$21 billion annually "a few years along."

The figures do not include loans by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) a part of the World Bank group, which helps businesses rather than governments. In the year that ended last June 30, the IFC lent a record \$790 million.

Most of the bank's new capital, like its present \$85 billion, would be on call by the bank from the member governments with only a small percentage actually paid in. Such on-call capital has never actually been used.

Some authorities say the increase could be made without the governments having to pay in anything at all. Such an arrangement could raise the cost of the money the bank borrows in rich countries and then lends to the Third World.

Another \$3.486 billion was lent

Most of the money that the bank lends is obtained by its own borrowing.

"Once the United States has completed its legislative actions (on its latest contribution), then I believe it will turn its attention to the bank's needs for a capital increase," Mr. Conable said.

The administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan has agreed to contribute \$2.875 billion to the bank's International Development Association, which makes loans to the poorest countries. Action on this agreement may come late this year, but could be held over until next year.

The bank's annual report put its lending for the year that ended June 30 at a record \$17.7 billion, up from the previous year's \$16.4 billion.

Of the new total, \$14.2 billion was lent by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). That "window" of the World Bank lends at a variable rate of interest which is now 7.76 per cent a year, less than what most countries would have to pay private banks. They have been doing little new lending in the past two years to countries already deep in debt.

The IBRD also lends for much longer periods than private banks do, often as long as 20 years. Another \$3.486 billion was lent

by the International Development Association, the World Bank's "soft loan window." It charges less than one per cent interest and has been lending for periods of 50 years, though in the future the terms will be for 35 or 40 years.

Though the total amount of lending increased, the net amount that the bank transferred to Third World countries went down, to \$2.416 billion from \$2.846 billion the previous year.

This is because the bank has been lending for more than 40 years and is getting large sums back on earlier loans — including repayments from former borrowers which are now so prosperous that they are ineligible for help. Japan is one of them.

Traditionally the bank, the biggest single source of aid to poor countries, makes loans for projects such as schools, roads and hospitals.

In 1985, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker urged it to take the lead in lending lump sums to government in return for new policies by the borrowers that would be friendlier to private enterprise, transactions called "adjustment lending."

"In the last year, our adjustment lending was increased by over \$1 billion to \$4.1 billion, or 23 per cent of our total new commitments," Mr. Conable said.

He also made a point of increased lending to the poorest countries, where incomes amount to less than \$400 a year for the average citizen. That lending went up nine per cent to \$6.43 billion.

S. Korean labour unrest declines

SEOUL (AP) — The government said Thursday only 87 strikes remained unsettled nationwide, indicating the wave of labour unrest that has gripped South Korea continued to abate.

The number of strikes nationwide dipped below 100 for the first time since late July on Wednesday, when 98 strikes were reported, said a labour ministry spokesman, who declined to be named.

But 24,000 workers remained on strike Thursday at the country's largest shipyard after union leaders rejected a company offer to resume wage talks if the workforce returned to work.

South Korea had been faced with up to 700 strikes at a time in July and August, the worst period of labour unrest in the country's history. Workers demanded more pay and shorter working hours.

The labour ministry said Thursday that since June 29 there had been 3,262 strikes.

Most of the remaining unsettled strikes involved small taxi and bus companies with small workforces, ministry officials said.

The largest unresolved strike was at the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. shipyard in the southern port of Ulsan, where 24,000 workers stayed off the job.

About 5,000 of the striking workers at the shipyard con-

tinued a peaceful sit-in Thursday for the 16th day, and there was no sign that the strike was nearing an end.

Union leaders rejected a company offer to resume talks on wages if the employees first returned to work. Company officials said they would try to put the proposal directly to the workers.

Workers want a 17 per cent increase in wages, but management has offered a 14 per cent rise. The average worker earns about \$500 a month.

Meanwhile, a report from the Korea National Tourism Corp. on Thursday said the number of foreign tourists visiting the country in the first 10 days of September had dropped 3.1 per cent over the same period last year.

The report said the drop to 49,100 foreign tourists in early

September was the first decline since 1980 for that 10-day period. Hotel workers in Seoul went on strike in August, demanding higher wages and free unions.

However, the officials said tourism suffered no setback as a result of the labour unrest in August, when foreign tourists numbered 180,200, an 11 per cent increase over a year ago.

Tourism officials said there was usually a lag between problems in a country and their impact on tourism.

The state-run Tourism Promotion Agency said foreign tourists who visited South Korea between January and August numbered 1,237,500 up 16.2 per cent from the same period last year.

The officials said the industry forecast no difficulty in reaching its goal of 1.8 million foreign tourists this year.

British unemployment drops

LONDON (R) — The number of British workers without jobs fell in August for the 14th month running, to 2.83 million, the government said Thursday.

Independent economists said a drop of 376,000, with good news on the trade front and continuing low wage costs were further signs of a boom in the British economy.

The seasonally adjusted August figure, a better guide to the underlying employment trend, dipped 43,300. The total of 2.83 million jobs is 10.2 per cent of the workforce, a ratio down from around 11.5 per cent a year ago.

Economists said the driving force behind British recovery was industry's success in coping with a surge in consumer demand.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today would be perfect for taking the bull by the horns and expressing your creative side. This will please both influential associates and unconventional friends. This is also a good day for romance.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Bring your finest talents to the foreground, and an influential person can help you capitalize on them. The evening is best spent at recreation with good friends.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) More dignity at home can be achieved if you apply yourself. The day is fine for inviting some carefully chosen guests into your home and making them happy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Improving relationships and communicating well with others could be very beneficial if you're careful about it. Be thoughtful and kind when visiting friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Luxury and a greater income can be easily had if you carefully study your situation. If property repairs are imminent, get them done now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you maintain a courageous and enthusiastic front, you can gain a long-desired personal wish. Enjoy a favorite hobby with friends. Be very careful driving today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be more thoughtful of your mate and you'll both be much happier. Some reading can give you good ideas on how to go about planning a successful future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with some outgoing friends and discuss your goals and ambitions. Lead a helping hand to any friends who are having a rough

time today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you handle your career work conscientiously and precisely, your reputation can really soar. Be sure you leave some time for fun with your mate this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Better conditions are developing. You can profit from them if you think carefully and take advantage of opportunities. This is a good day to plan a worthwhile trip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use your natural organizational ability to make some plans for the future. Take a trip with your mate and have a great time together, but drive very carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Contact some influential friends who can help you make your dreams a reality. Accept their assistance graciously, and be sure to be appreciative of it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your charm to gain the support of friends and family. Take some time to improve your surroundings and make them more functional as well as more attractive.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be able to easily attract others and gain their assistance, but will rely mostly on natural abilities, which are considerable. Be sure to give him or her a fine education — one which will require hard work. There is a lot of pride in your progeny, a nature which will have to be curbed a bit to improve relationships.

"The Stars impel they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrison

ACROSS

- Sp. house
- Abuse, prof.
- Diet no-no
- Menial prince
- Stress
- Over the bill
- Time
- Dodecanease
- Island
- Family chronicle
- Imposed
- Seen now
- Armed guard
- Bangkok resident
- Prayer
- Flying prof.
- Counterfeit
- Hospital area
- Not any
- Country monogram
- Pleasures
- Ex. loc.
- Semester
- More concise
- Probe
- City on the river
- Place
- Employable
- Old style
- Old car
- Behind a ship
- Genes
- Proverbs
- Magnus of
- Archie
- Felony of soap
- Abominable
- Woman
- Famous Flynn
- Short jacket
- Genes
- Time of life
- Threat of yow.

DOWN

- Samson
- Fr. island
- Certainly
- Ingots
- Palator or scultor
- Old It. coin
- Rubber tree
- 22A, 57A, 50
- Space
- Ledger entry
- Shape
- Out
- Clothes
- Left
- Repeat
- Bar bill
- Active life
- Woodshed
- Golf slope
- Meat fare
- Certain bars
- Up to the time of
- March plant
- Turmoil
- Beginning
- Formal wear
- Calendar segments
- Modern prof.
- It. distrol
- Challenge
- NC college
- Logical
- Put on money
- Born
- Arrow poison
- Put in money

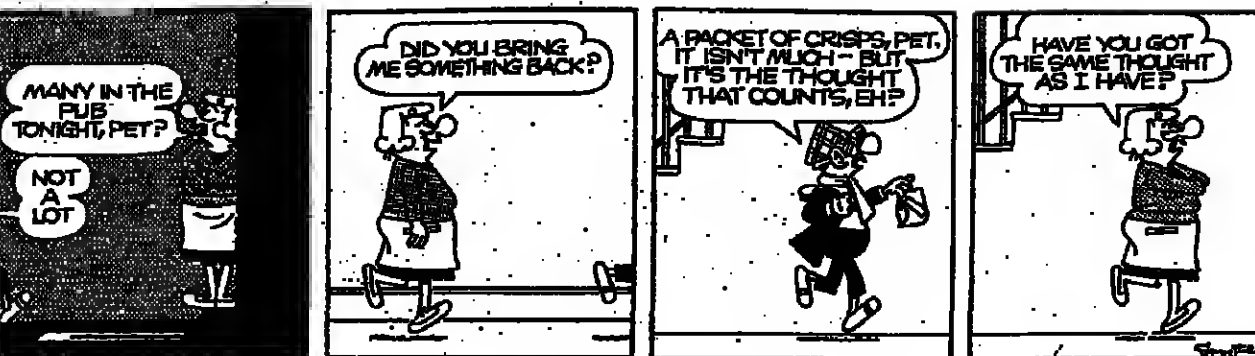
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIDAY
TRAAP
PRAILL
TICNID

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COCOA JUMBO UNFURY OXYGEN

Answer: Seems to be the only subject some kids study in school these days — "BUSY-LOGY"

Aquino to visit military camps to improve her ties with army

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino, recovering from an army coup attempt that plunged her government into crisis, prepared plans on Friday to regain the support of the restive military.

She told a meeting of senators she was preparing to visit key military camps in the country to improve her relations with the 150,000-strong regular army and boost its anti-insurgency campaign.

The new focus on the military, however, provoked angry pronouncements from leftist politicians and trade union leaders who said her government was leaning towards the right.

Partido Ng Bayan (PNB), the Philippines' major legal leftist party, said the military had become a dominant influence on the Aquino administration following her removal of liberal advisers in her cabinet.

"Rather than demilitarising the civilian government, the country is slowly going back to where the military commands a dominant influence on crucial policies," said Alan Jazmines, head of PNB.

Mrs. Aquino appointed two retired generals to key government posts this week as part of a major revamp which included removing Joker Arroyo, a close adviser and friend who was tagged a Communist by his critics.

He denied the label.

The re-organisation defused three weeks of political tension marked by threats of new military coups, attacks by Communist insurgents and speculation about the cabinet reshuffle.

The share market reacted well to the reshuffle and prices rose on Friday's after five days of slump. "Traders welcomed the new appointments because it showed the president was willing to make drastic changes for the better," one broker said.

The presidential palace said in a statement Mrs. Aquino would start her tour in Mindanao, in an area where civilian vigilante groups have been used to fight Communist rebels.

No details on the visit would be released for security reasons, a spokesman said.

The restive Philippines military took a cautious approach on Thursday to President Aquino's announcement replacing Mr. Arroyo.

A few senior officers issued guarded statements but many de-

clined comment.

Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos said in a television interview: "The president removed some members of the cabinet not so much because the military said so but because she needs a good team to help her run the government."

"It is a political decision," Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier-General Honesto Isleta told reporters. "We will respect her decision," another general, who asked not to be named, said.

Mrs. Aquino removed Mr. Arroyo and another close adviser Teodoro Locsin as part of a cabinet re-structure following the Aug. 28 coup attempt in which 53 people were killed. On Wednesday, she accepted the resignation of Foreign Affairs Secretary Salvador Laurel and Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin.

"Aquino removed Arroyo but he recommended his deputy, Catalino Macaraeg, as replacement. It means he will still be around to influence things," former Senator Eva Kalan told Reuters.

"The cabinet remains virtually the same. This so-called cabinet revamp is 'rigodon' (ballroom dancing)," Homobono Adaza, a defeated candidate in the May senatorial elections, said.

Philippine Vice-President Sal-

vador Laurel, who quit as foreign minister on Wednesday, said his brother was offered a top cabinet post by President Corazon Aquino in an apparently conciliatory move.

Mr. Laurel said in a radio interview on Friday that Mrs. Aquino offered his brother Jose, a former ambassador to Japan, the job of defence minister.

He said the offer was made at a meeting of members of the Aquino and Laurel families, two of the country's most politically powerful clans, the day before he announced his "irrevocable" resignation.

He told the private radio station DZRH his brother turned down the offer.

Mr. Laurel said he was leaving the cabinet because of sharp differences with Mrs. Aquino over her handling of the Communist insurgency. He retains the vice-presidency.

Mr. Laurel, originally the opposition candidate standing against former President Ferdinand Marcos in elections in February 1986, agreed to be Mrs. Aquino's running-mate after a coalition backing her gained widespread support.

He said he was not consulted on key decisions and was treated like an outsider in the cabinet.

Contras to release 80 Sandinista prisoners

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Nicaraguan rebel leaders said they will release 80 Sandinista prisoners nearly six weeks ahead of the new regional peace plan's timetable to show their "good will and total acceptance," of the accord.

Alfonso Robelo, a director of the contra's Nicaraguan Resistance umbrella group, said the prisoners were to be released in Costa Rica on Friday after being flown on a contra DC-6 plane from a "private place" somewhere in Central America. He said all had been captured in Nicaragua.

Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron said the prisoners would be released to his government at the airport at Liberia, about 160 kilometres north west of San Jose and less than 48 kilometres from the Nicaraguan border.

Costa Rica will allow the prisoners to return to Nicaragua, receive political asylum in Costa Rica or go to another Central American country, Mr. Garron said.

Mr. Robelo said the contras would give reporters a list with each prisoner's name, rank and unit in the Sandinista popular army, date of birth, and date and place of capture.

He said the list would prove they were Nicaraguans, unlike 16 prisoners from other Central American nations caught while fighting with the U.S.-backed contras and pardoned this week by Nicaraguan President Daniel

Ortega.

All 80 of the prisoners to be freed Friday were captured during clashes between the contra rebels and the Sandinista army, according to a letter from the contras asking the Costa Rican government to accept the prisoners.

The contras are holding 30 more Nicaraguan prisoners "deep into Nicaragua" and will release them "in the coming weeks," Mr. Robelo said, adding that only 80 could fit on the plane at one time.

Meanwhile an acrimonious row between the United States and Nicaragua has overshadowed a 13-nation meeting to discuss an agreement signed recently to end Central America's conflicts.

The quarrel on Thursday erupted during a visit in Managua by U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett, who harshly criticised Nicaragua's government and pledged continued support from Washington for rebel contras.

He made his comments at a news conference as five Central American foreign ministers and delegates from eight other Latin American countries were opening talks on the peace agreement signed last month, part of which calls for an end to U.S. support for the contras.

In Washington congressional leaders agreed to extend humanitarian aid to Nicaraguan contra rebels until Nov. 7, according to Jim Wright, the speaker of the House of Representatives.

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Raisa Gorbachev to get image award

MOSCOW (R) — Raisa Gorbachev, the elegant wife of the Kremlin leader, will receive an international image award from a group of U.S. fashion designers visiting Moscow, an organiser of the project has said. Sharon McNally told Reuters the award from the Dallas Apparel Mart would be presented to Mrs. Gorbachev as part of a cultural exchange initiative titled Design For Peace. "We felt we would like to honour Raisa Gorbachev for her outstanding activities and contribution to promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between the cultural circles of the USSR and other countries," McNally said. She said the award, a black marble vase with a bronze plaque topped by a crystal onion dome, had been specially designed for Mrs. Gorbachev and would be presented when she returned to Moscow from her summer holiday. U.S. designers from clothing firms such as Hush Puppies, Jockey International, Anne Klein II, Danskin and Baryshnikov Bodywear opened their fashion week in Moscow on Wednesday. Some had spent the previous week in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi working with Soviet designers to create new styles which were presented at the opening event.

Priest assaults police outside love nest

LUDVIKA, Sweden (R) — A clergyman was fined by a court in his central Swedish town for kicking and spitting at policemen who stopped him reaching his wife and her lover, court officials have said. The court heard that the Lutheran minister, after learning of his wife's affair followed her and her lover to a holiday cottage. He tried to break the door down when the couple would not let him in and police were called. The clergyman kicked and spat at two of the five officers required to restrain him. The minister admitted the charges, saying he was beside himself at the time. His local parish is to consider his future, the court heard.

Convicted rapist shoots himself in court

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A white man convicted of raping a black woman stood up in the dock and shot himself in the head after hearing a judge sentence him to six years in prison, police said on Thursday. Johannes De Vos, 32, was rushed to hospital in critical condition after firing the pistol in a court in Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg.

Elephantine ache calls for major surgery

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — After a four-hour operation, 90 painkillers and 260 antibiotic pills, Shita was back on her feet, but probably suffering an elephant-sized ache. The 1,200-pound (2,700 kilogramme) elephant cut a fist-sized hole in her palate when she was accidentally pushed into a moat by her companion, Nika, at the Skansen Zoo. Oral surgeons from Huddinge hospital south of Stockholm were called in when the wound became infected. They operated with the help of a veterinarian and an expert summoned from a horse hospital at a nearby race track. Nika, 27, was given a bucket full of tranquilisers to keep her quiet while Shita, 14, underwent surgery.

Picasso secret love affair revealed

NEW YORK (R) — Pablo Picasso had a secret love affair in 1915-16 when he was supposed to be inconsolable because his mistress was dying, an art historian says. "Nothing has been recorded of this ravishing girl whom Picasso kept a secret from his even closest friends, not least Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas," art historian and Picasso biographer John Richardson writes in an article in the October issue of House and Garden Magazine. The woman was named Gabrielle Depierre Lespinasse. It is unclear how Picasso met her, Richardson says. "All we know for certain is that Gabrielle Depierre was born in Paris in 1888 and was thus 27 when she met the artist." One of the love notes found among previously unexhibited sketches and watercolours Picasso did for her contradicts his claim to be an atheist, Richardson writes. It said: "J'ai demande a main au bon dieu." I have asked the good God for your hand, Richardson, who was a friend of Picasso, says the note was probably the first time Picasso seriously considered marriage. "This romance," according to Richardson, "is historically significant because it reveals a missing link in the artist's marital career and because it also reveals Picasso with his guard down, passionately, abjectly in love, for once at the mercy of a pretty girl instead of the other way around." The love affair was probably kept secret partly because she was involved with the American-born engraver and poet Herbert Lespinasse, whom she later married, Richardson says.

Moscow police arrest drug addicts

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow police detained prostitutes, drug addicts, burglars and drunk drivers in night raids on suspected criminal hideouts in the capital, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. It reported that in 20 minutes police checked 23,000 addresses in an operation codenamed "Operation Law and Order." It said the overnight operation netted 25 drug addicts, 17 prostitutes, 15 burglars and 96 drunken drivers. Seven stolen cars were found, 95 people arrested for money speculation and 24 home-brewing devices were seized. Moscow police chief Pyotr Bogdanov, revising the city's population statistics, said the capital had nine million permanent residents and some three million visitors, complicating crime-fighting for the police. Moscow's population is usually estimated at eight million. TASS quoted Bogdanov as saying his force's chief concern was crime among youth, with young people making up the majority of 1,900 drug addicts registered in Moscow. "We've managed to stabilise this statistic, but there is still a lot of work ahead," Bogdanov told TASS.

Dial-a-drug delivery service stopped

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch police have said they had arrested a young couple advertising a soft drugs home delivery service, planned like an American-style door-to-door pizza delivery firm. Police spokesman Klaas Witink said the couple distributed leaflets advertising a new courier service, Soft-Express, to bring to the door marijuana or hashish by motorcycle within 15 minutes of a telephone order. Police used the telephone number on the leaflets to trace the couple's address and raided their flat. While illegal, the use of soft drugs is widespread and condoned by Amsterdam police. Specialised bars selling hashish — but no alcohol — have sprung up in all corners of the Dutch capital, making it Europe's most liberal city on soft drugs. Under a policy much criticised abroad, Amsterdam police only act against trading in soft drugs when it is advertised in public or when people below 16 are involved. In March, police closed down a similar operation called Blow Home Couriers, which advertised on billboards all over the city.

Michael Jackson takes chimp to visit mayor

TOKYO (R) — Reclusive superstar Michael Jackson took his pet chimpanzee on a rare social call on Friday, dropping in on the mayor of the western Japanese city of Osaka. Jackson's chimp Bubbles sipped Japanese green tea and sat quietly next to his master during the visit to see Mayor Yasushi Oshima, a city official said. "We were surprised to see the chimpanzee, but we understand he is his (Jackson's) good friend," said the official. "This is the first time an animal ever entered city hall." Jackson, known to be shy, was mobbed near the city office by 500 fans who spotted his car stuck in a traffic jam on its way to the mayor's office, a Jackson publicity agent said. He opened the darkened windows of his limousine so the fans could see him, the city official said. Mayor Oshima gave Jackson the key to the city as the idol murmured that he was happy to meet him, the official said. Jackson, sporting his trademark, white glove played to sold-out crowds in Tokyo before moving on to Osaka this week. The performances kicked off Jackson's first concert tour since 1984.

Soviets shoot at U.S. liaison team

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon official says a Soviet patrol created "sort of an ambush situation" for two members of a U.S. military liaison team in East Germany, and the Pentagon demanded to know why a Soviet soldier fired at the team's vehicle, slightly wounding one of the Americans.

The unidentified soldier in Thursday's shooting was treated at a West Berlin hospital for a wound in the arm and released shortly afterward, the Pentagon said.

U.S. Army Major Denis Pinkham at European Command Headquarters near Stuttgart, West Germany, said Friday that the military liaison team "encountered a group of Soviet soldiers, and were fired at by at least one of these soldiers."

"The United States expects a full explanation of the reasons for this incident," Maj. Pinkham said, reading from a prepared statement. "We are in touch with the Soviets on this matter, and are considering what further action may be required."

The incident prompted the Pentagon to recall the March

1985 killing of Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson by a Soviet sentry in East Germany.

"We wish to emphasise as we did when (Maj.) Nicholson was killed, their action is inexcusable," a Pentagon statement said. The soldier in Thursday's incident, like Maj. Nicholson, was attached to the U.S. military liaison mission team in Potsdam, East Germany.

The military liaison missions were created in 1947 to foster cooperation by the four occupying powers in Germany after World War II — Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union has a team in West Germany.

Maj. Pinkham said the team was travelling in a "tour vehicle" when the shooting occurred.

A Pentagon source reached Thursday night said the United States might take unspecified actions "to restrict the Soviet liaison mission activities in West Germany until we find out what's going on."

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger called for "strong, immediate" protests to the Soviet embassy in Washington and to

military liaison officials in Europe, Pentagon sources said.

"We need to find out much more about this," said a Pentagon official who insisted on anonymity. "Our men were not in a restricted area. There was no excuse for the use of deadly force."

According to Lt. Alice Prucha, a Pentagon spokeswoman, the two U.S. soldiers were detained for about 20 minutes before being allowed to leave. The Pentagon said there were five Soviet soldiers in the group and one of them fired on the Americans' vehicle.

The incident happened about 9:15 a.m. (1315 GMT) Thursday some 10 miles (16 kilometres) north east of the small town of Neuprin.

The shooting occurred as the two Americans tried to leave the area, the Pentagon said. The vehicle was described as a jeep-like all-purpose vehicle of German make but clearly marked as belonging to the liaison.

The Pentagon declined to say why the men were travelling through that section of East Germany.

Senate gives preliminary approval to SDI limits

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate has given preliminary approval to a measure barring President Reagan from aggressively pursuing his "Star Wars" anti-missile programme without congressional approval.

The measure is a provision of the Senate's 1988 defence bill. President Reagan has vowed to veto any legislation that includes arms control restrictions.

The Senate vote came as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began his third and last day of talks with U.S. officials in an attempt to conclude an agreement banning intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF).

Moscow vehemently opposes "Star Wars," a research programme into ground- and surface-based anti-missile weapons formerly known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Rigorous testing and development of SDI is prohibited under the traditional interpretation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which limits ballistic missile defence systems.

To proceed with the programme, the White House has put forward a new ABM treaty interpretation.

Critics, led by Senator Sam Nunn, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, say there is no legal basis for the new interpretation.

U.S. marks 200th anniversary of constitution

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The constitution, fresh from its red, white and blue 200th birthday party across America, enters its third century Friday with a ceremony commemorating its first public reading and a look to the future.

"What we want to do now is focus on the ratification process," said former supreme court Chief Justice Warren Burger, who joined President Ronald Reagan in ceremonies Thursday near Independence Hall, where the constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787.

The constitution, the central document of the U.S. government, outlines individual rights and establishes the framework for the national government. It became law after the 13 original states ratified it. The Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the constitution demanded by the original states to limit federal power and protect individual rights, was ratified on Dec. 15, 1791.

"Four years from now, the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights will be an even bigger celebration," said Democratic Presidential Candidate Jesse Jackson. "It has given this constitution soul and vitality."

Rev. Jackson, while noting the constitution excluded women and blacks, called it "the envy of governments around the world because it has endured."

Friday is the 200th anniversary of the first public reading of the constitution, which was drafted in secret.

Philadelphia's \$6 million bash was centrepiece of hundreds across the nation on Thursday. The commemoration in the birthplace of the constitution began with a graveside ceremony and a parade, included a speech from Mr. Reagan and hit a high note with a bell-ringing ceremony.

Skin grafts may help diabetes, hemophilia

WASHINGTON (AP) — It may be possible to treat diseases such as diabetes and hemophilia with skin grafts, according to researchers who have developed a method of growing skin patches that excrete selected proteins.

Scientists said the new approach to delivering therapeutic proteins has been tried only in animals and needs much more work. But if the technique works in humans, they said, it could be an alternative long-term treatment for a number of conditions.

The Boston-area scientists said

they have developed a way of using viruses to transfer protein-producing genes into cultures of skin cells, grown the same way sheets of cells are produced for covering the wounds of burn victims.

The resulting skin patches may provide a unique way to deliver deficient hormones and proteins for treating diseases such as diabetes and hemophilia, they said.

On mice, transplanted sheets of these cells make a new skin that produces desired proteins which infuse into the body, they said.

Allied probe confirms Hess hanged himself

WEST BERLIN (R) — An investigation by British military police for the four Berlin powers has confirmed Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess hanged himself, a statement on behalf of the four wartime allies has said.

Hess' family and some Neo-Nazi groups have expressed doubts that he committed suicide in jail where he was usually closely guarded.

The statement, issued by telex, said in a full autopsy conducted on Hess two days after he died on Aug. 17 showed "death resulted from asphyxia, caused by compression of the neck due to suspension."

For the first time, the allies — Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — published an extract from Hess' suicide note. Written on the back of a letter from his daughter-in-law, it said: "Please would the governors send this home. Written a few minutes before my death."

Hess, who was 93 when he died, spent 41 years in West

Berlin's Spandau Prison, guarded by the four powers.

The special investigation branch of the British Military Police carried out the official inquiry for the four powers.

The allied press release, issued by the British on behalf of the four, said it was the final statement on Hess' death.

"Investigations have confirmed that on Aug. 17 Rudolf Hess hanged himself from a window latch in a small summer house in the prison garden, using an electrical cord which had for some time been kept ... for use ... with a reading lamp," it said.

Hess, in captivity since he parachuted into Scotland in 1941 on an apparent peace mission early in World War II, was rushed to the British military hospital after attempts to revive him at the prison failed. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at 4.10 p.m., the statement said.

The Hess family had an autopsy performed last month. The family lawyer, Alfred Seidl, said afterwards the autopsy showed

marks on the neck but did not dispel their doubts that Hess had killed himself.

Thursday's brief statement also disclosed details of an earlier suicide attempt in which Hess tried to cut his wrists with a table knife in 1977.

After the 1977 attempt, prison warders were placed in Hess' room and he was watched 24 hours a day, the statement said. "This was discontinued after several months as impracticable, unnecessary and an inappropriate invasion of Hess' privacy."

The statement said the investigation had shown the routine followed by staff on the day of Hess' death "was consistent with normal practice."

Spandau Prison is now being prepared for demolition. British military workers have already dismantled part of the roof, and started taking out windows and burning fittings.

The structure will be knocked down later and the site used for a British military shopping and recreation centre.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SMALL SLAM THE HARD WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A Q 5 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ K Q 9 7 6
♣ 10

WEST
♠ K 7 3
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 9 6 2

EAST
♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ Q
♦ J 6
♣ K Q J 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 9
♥ K 8 7 4 2
♦ A 10 4
♣ A 8 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
2NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 4♦ Pass
4♥ Pass 4NT Pass
5♠ Pass 5NT Pass
6♠ Pass 6♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

The auction was tortuous. After cue-bids in the minor suits, North's four no trump was key-card Blackwood and South's response showed three aces (counting the king of trumps as an ace).

The final contract of six hearts was unimpeachable, and would have been easy with a normal 3-2 trump break. A slightly less inspired lead than the jack of trumps would have left declarer with no play, but he was quick to seize the opportunity he was given.

He won the first trick with dummy's ace, revealing the trump position. He cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, came to the ace of diamonds and finessed the queen of spades! After cashing the ace of spades for a club discard, he ruffed a spade in hand and a club with the table's last trump. He reached the end position he desired by cashing the king-queen of diamonds.

By now, both declarer and West were down to nothing but three trumps each. All that remained to be done was to ruff a diamond with the seven of trumps. West could overruff, but he was then forced to lead away from his J-6 of trumps into declarer's K-8 tenace.

The Brilliance Prize at the 10th European Junior Bridge Championship was won by Norway's Jon Andreas Hofstad for this fine effort from his country's match against Belgium.